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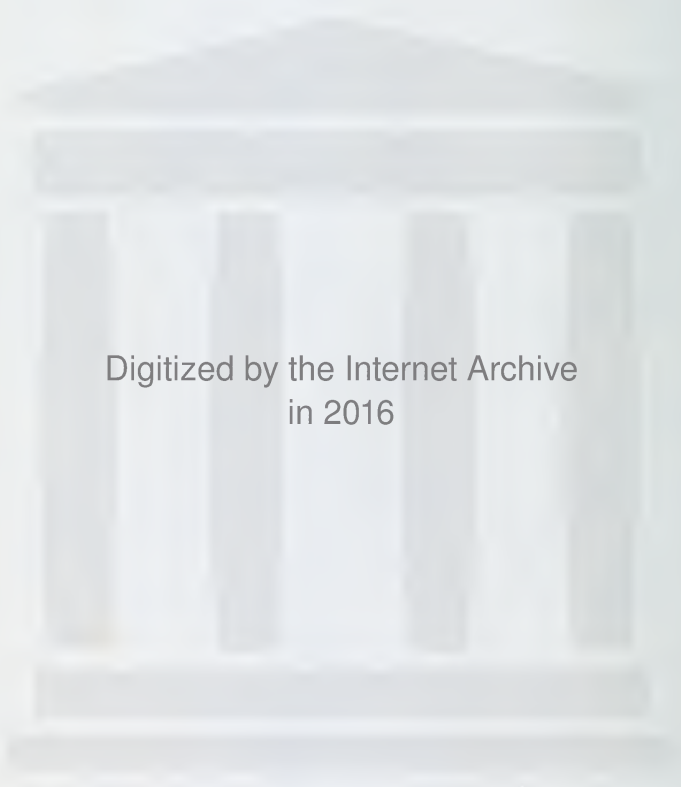
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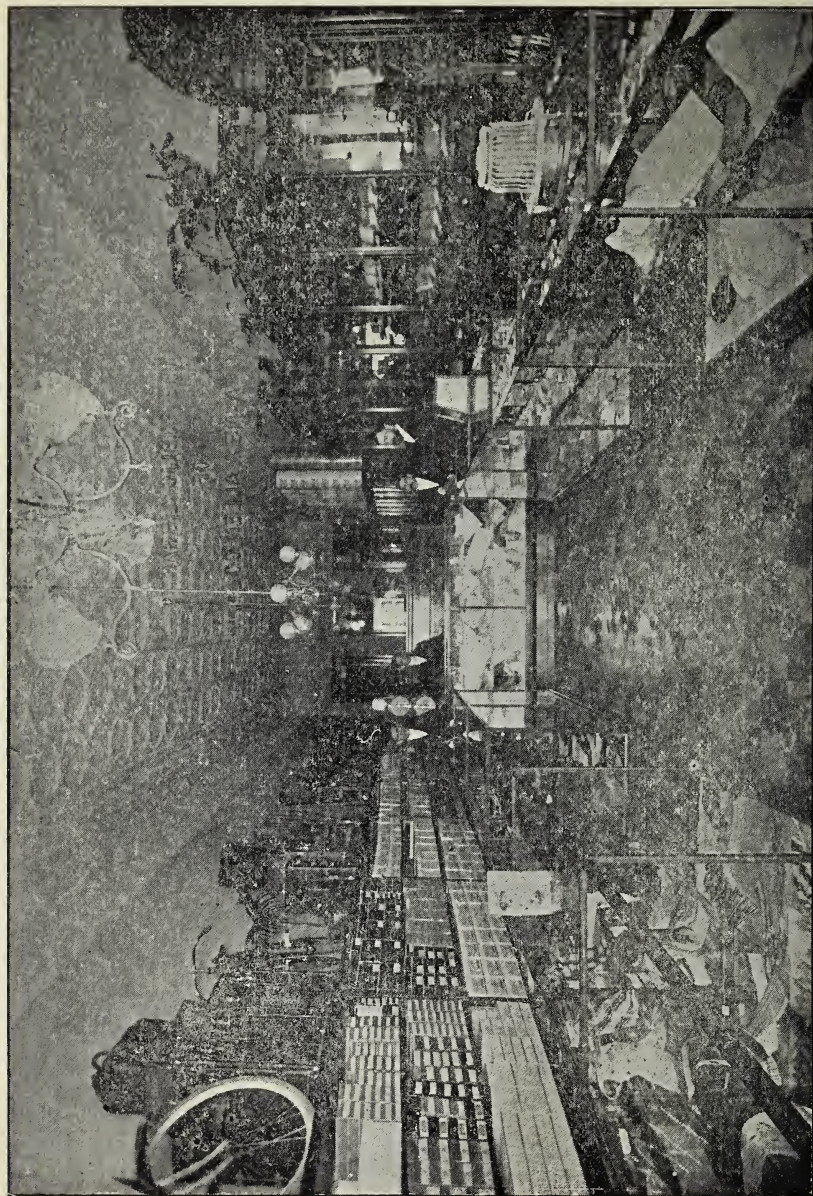
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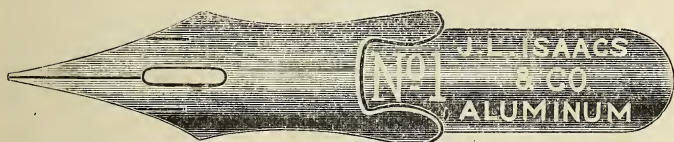


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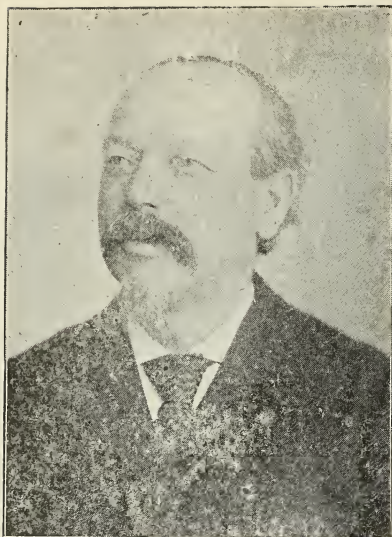
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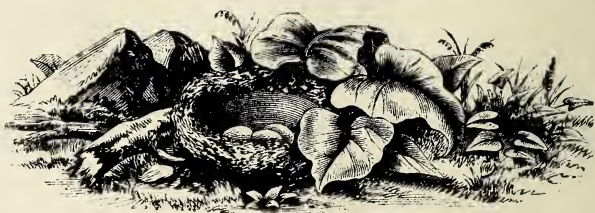
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By Alvaro Jf. Gibbens, A. M.

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View in Vicinity of Blennerhassett Island.

## View of the Island.

The most charming of all the ten islands on the Ohio river frontage, within the area of Wood county, was one destined to be historic in American events. It rested, ere the dawn of the century, like a gem of beauty on the fair bosom of the current, while the parting waters, golden at evening and radiant at morn, welcomed the kissing sunlight as it fell alike over surrounding hill and vale.

In the bend of a magnificent river, with the vine-wreathed and willow-fringed stately trees, looking in kingly air, down upon its pebble-decorated sands in front, it was like a poetic dream of Nature disclosing itself to the eye of the traveler as he, on his exploring way southward and westward, passed reluctantly on.

Perhaps had every daring beholder, whose vision greeted this delightful scene, gone on his way toward the dominions of Spain with unfaltering oar strokes, there would have been no record in this volume of a great mystery and conspiracy, and the tranquility of a happy home and patriotic people would have been undisturbed. But a Napoleonic destiny barred the way to so happy a realization, and Blennerhassett was the victim of his own ambition or the wiles of another whom the entire Nation had honored and trusted.

### PATENT TITLE.

It is said that when Washington and his group of attendants in huge canoes made his land-inspection tour down the Ohio in 1770, he marked for entry in his own right this island. Doubtless he may have done so, but in the multitude of greater events,



which crowded his country's sky, the record was not made in the proper land office of Virginia, and his hatchet-claim lapsed.

A pioneer writer of history,\* asserts that Colonel P. Devoll located it, along with that tract above the mouth of the Muskingum, in his own name in 1774, and sold it to Elijah Backus, who gave the first name to the island, as it was recorded in early navigation maps.

It appears to have been first surveyed in 1784, on a land warrant issued in 1780, and a patent made out by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, 1786, to Alexander Nelson, of Richmond, who was a member of a mercantile firm in Philadelphia. By a bill in Chancery of the High Court of Virginia, procured by Blennerhassett to perfect his title, it appears that Elijah Backus, of Norwich, Connecticut, bought of James Heron, of Norfolk, in the year 1792, two islands in the Ohio river, the principal one being that lying about 2 miles below the mouth of the Little Kanawha river, then in Monongalia county. The acreage was stated at 297 and the purchase consideration 250 pounds in Virginia currency, or about \$883.33.

Elijah Backus was a lawyer, editor of the Ohio Gazette and the Territorial and Virginia Herald, of Marietta, 7th December, 1801; elected to State Senate of Ohio in 1803; and removed to Pittsburg and there died in 1807 or 1808. He was once named by the Justices of Wood for membership in their court, but not having decided to locate on the Virginia side the commission was never made out.

In March, 1798, Harman Blennerhassett verbally agrees to purchase of Elijah Backus 170 acres of the upper portion for \$4500, and moved with wife and one child, soon after, upon it, using as his residence the old block-house about a half mile away from the upper end of the island, which building had been erected in the time of the Indian war by Captain James. Here he lived till the completion of his memorable mansion in 1800. In the primitive log-defence, afterwards, Daniel Fusher, who had landed on the island on New Year's day 1800, lived a few years, and then bought in Belpre. He was father of ten children. That building long ago suffered demolition.

\* Hildreth in "Original Contributions to the American Pioneer."

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*Blennerhassett*



*His Wife*



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At the period specified huge sycamores and other kinglly forest trees guarded and graced the head of the isle, and the wild-grape, trumpet-vine and creepers, thick and matted, interlaced the shores and touched the willows that encircled the wilderness-isle on every side.

The island, or dual island, is narrow and long, extending miles from head to navigation's foot. The river on either side is so narrow as to permit the distinct hearing of ordinary conversation between island and main shore. From either bank, back of fertile meadows, rise picturesque hills, seemingly shutting in the island group from all the outer world.

### **Harman Blannerhassett.**

Gifted, credulous, fated might be written as characteristic of this son of the Emerald Isle, who sought to make an Eden within the wilderness. He was the youngest son of a distinguished family, which could trace its lineage from the era of King John. His grandfather, Robert, having emigrated from Cumberland in the time of Elizabeth, became the head of three respectable branches of the Celtic gentry. He was not, as often asserted, of noble birth, though the family residence was Castle Conway, Ireland. Harman was born in 1767, while his parents were on a visit in Hampshire, England; so he was less than thirty years of age when he reached the shores of America. To his education his parents had devoted thoughtful care, and he graduated with marked honors, destined for the bar, and attained the degree of Barrister, but was not attracted to it for an occupation, and succeeding by the death of his elder brother to the family estates, he abandoned law as a profession. Nature had endowed him with more than moderate powers of mind to pursue investigations in natural sciences, and accordingly he delighted in these studies and pursuits. It was claimed that so tenacious was his memory that he could repeat the whole of Homer's *Illiad* in the original Greek. In stature he was 6 feet tall, slender in proportions and inclined to stoop in his shoulders. His forehead was prominent above ordinary, and his nose was the distinguishing feature of his kindly face. In manners he was easy, courteous, social and interesting. In disposition he was obliging, charitable, indulgent and hospitable, bestowing his gifts upon the needy with cheerfulness and without ostentation. Being near-sighted he was compelled almost con-

stantly to use spectacles. He was, nevertheless, passionately fond of gunning, but necessarily had with him his wife or a trusted servant, who levelled his fowling piece and brought it to bear upon the game when located. Peter, a colored servant, was sometimes stationed a short distance away, and directed his aim as follows : \*

"Now bend, Master B., a little to the left. Now to the right. Up a point. There—steady—fire." Off would go the rifle, and not infrequently the frightened but unharmed game also.

He had a fine ear for music, and excelled as a performer upon several instruments, and was the author of creditable musical compositions. He was domestic in his habits, even to indolency, methodical in his plans and practice, ever studied to make his home cheerful, even to luxury, its inmates happy, and in the entertainment of friends both husband and wife were peerless and fascinating. In dress his style was English, contrasting with that of his plain neighbors and associates. At social gatherings invariably he appeared in satin waist coat, buff colored or scarlet, knee breeches, small silk stockings, silver-buckled shoes and coat of blue velvet or broadcloth. At home his dress was more careless, in warm weather rather negligee, without coat or waist coat, and in Winter a thick woolen jacket or round-about.

His wife was Margaret Agnew, daughter of the Lieut-Governor of the Isle of Man, and granddaughter of the celebrated General of that name who fell at the battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, and after her arrival in America she erected a monument to his memory.

While it is stated that he supplied himself with extensive literary and philosophical apparatus in London and embarked for New York in 1797, yet in his subsequent declaration, March 7, 1803, seeking citizenship, he made oath that he "had resided in the United States between the 29 Janu'y, 1795, and 18 June, 1798, and had then been in the State of Virginia one year."

He lingered in New York for awhile to study the people and the geography of the land he was to adopt as his own.

Over the rough, narrow paths of the Allegheny barriers, with his wife and child, he passed in the Fall of 1797, and at Pittsburgh embarked in a keel-boat down the Ohio, seeking a place for

\* "Hildreth's American Review," 1848, p. 50.

his castle. Landing at Marietta he spent the entire Winter in a pleasant way among a refined citizenship, and prospecting by repeated excursions into the adjacent hills and vales for a site for his residence. He had almost decided to locate upon an eminence in the rear of the village, but the steepness of the approaches and the discovery in time of the captivating island in Virginia, below the Little Kanawha, decided his purchase and his destiny. and in March, 1798, out of a fortune of little less than \$100,000 he secured the main part of the island and fixed his abode.

The next two years was spent in supervising personally the erection of a palatial home, which he was ambitious should surpass any other private mansion west of the mountains, and in clearing the grounds of the dense timber and under growth, and and in beautifying the approaches and lawns. To this accomplishment many hands were requisite, in addition to the contractors, house-carpenters and the laborers, the ten negro servants he had purchased as grooms, waiters and watermen. Forest trees, the growth of years innumerable were uprooted, boughs and trunks burned or conveyed away, and the inequalities of ground surface were smoothed and changed in accordance with artistic taste. The giant trees, save here and there reserved ones, together with underbrush which might obstruct delightful view to the traveler descending Ohio's current, were removed from the broad front of the upper portion of the sand-pebbled gently-sloping head of the island. Elms, sycamores, and cottonwoods were sacrificed 'neath the strokes of the woodman's axe, that better, grander view might be had of the palatial mansion, which he had painted an alabaster whiteness.

Col. Joseph Barker, of Marietta, who, a few years after, in 1803, built a brigantine and named it Dominic, for Blennerhassett's oldest son, was the principal architect of this uniquely planned residence of costly beauty. An exterior view is given in the cut presented. Springing up at that era of primitive cabins, in almost a wilderness, which had just emerged from the perils of Indian warfare and the presence of ferocious game, it was like a creation of magic, a revelation of paradise in a "boundless contiguity of shade" and unadorned nature. The cost of the princely building, remote from the marts of industry and art, was, it is said, in excess of a half hundred thousand dollars. The exterior improvements of walks, lawns, shrubbery, orchards, flowers and

clearing of an hundred acre farm below the structure, doubtless added ten thousand more, the entire expenditure of which among farmers, mechanics and laborers was an appreciated benefit where money was scarce and opportunities to earn it few indeed.

No expense was spared in the construction and decoration, which might impart splendor, usefulness, or convenience. The main building fronted the east and was two stories high, 52 feet in length and 30 feet in width. Across the front a deep portico extended, and thence on either side in circular wings, single stories, 40 feet in length, connected the principal or center building with buildings on the north and south sides, each also facing the east, and being 26 feet in length and 20 feet in depth and two stories high. The entire structure formed half of an ellipse, with frontage of 104 feet, exclusive of the circular porticoes, or promenade extensions. The right hand wing was used for library, philosophical apparatus, laboratory and study; the left appropriated to an occupancy by the servants. The united taste, culture and consultation of the Blennerhassett pair brought finishing, furnishing and furniture of every apartment in harmony and unison with a matured plan and ideal. The furniture, of the best, latest and richest, in every room, was brought from the East by wagon, through Pittsburg, and thence down the Ohio by barge and keel, and was selected to please the eye and add luxurious comfort and convenience to family and numerous guests.

The hall, a spacious room, was painted somber color, with cornice of plaster, bordered with moulding of gilt, extending around the lofty ceiling, with rich, heavy furniture to correspond. The drawing-room contrasted with the hall in having furniture light in hue and structure, and elegant, with gay carpets, splendid mirrors, rich curtains, classic pictures and artistic ornaments. The side-boards—with decanters and wine glasses, indispensable to Virginia hospitality in early times—was graced, as were the tables, by a liberal supply of silverware. The finest taste in all the interior, as well as beauty of the exterior surroundings, indicated the refinement of owner and hostess, and the possession and enjoyment of the finest estate in the Virginia section of the Western world, compensated them partly for their absence and immigration from associates and heritage in the older land across the wide, wide sea.







The Castle in the Wilderness.

Greeting the eye in front of this mansion, which had been built of wood in view of safety in case of supposed earthquakes, was in process of brief time a graded lawn of several acres adorned with walks and dotted here and there with shrubbery and clusters of bright flowers and extending eastward to the rippling water's edge of the upper end of the island, with an opening in the reserved trees.

From the dwelling a gravelled carriage way and walks led through a vine ornamented gateway to the river on the north side, where light boats were moored and slave attendants ready to ferry to the Ohio shore. This useful avenue was bordered with a thick hedge of native hawthorn. In the distance of this landscape picture were the forest trees and copse-wood, forming vistas for sunshine and storm to play in and delight the vision.

The space immediately in the rear and to the west of the ideal home was assigned for fruits and flowers of richest hue, and rare shrubbery in beds and gracefully curved walks. The wide area on the exterior border was circled by a picket fence, along whose line were planted peach, pear, quince and apricot trees, facing winding walks, over which floated in dewy morn, and sunlit noon, and dreamy eve, delicious odor of mingled and embowered honeysuckle, eglantine and similar flowering shrubs

On the south was an extensive vegetable garden, and adjacent to it a thrifty orchard of apple, plum, cherry and similar fruits, in great variety.

The farm below, westward, was of alluvial soil, naturally rich and productive, and kept improved and highly cultivated, yielding then as now in abundance wheat, corn and other grains, and its meadows were stocked with the best breeds of cattle and swine.

This estate upon a lovely island, when much labor and money had been expended upon it, and a few years of joyous possession had wafted by, was indeed a rich dominion for cultivated minds, a picture of peace, repose, quietude, innocence and happiness.

Here in this mansion—almost a baronial castle when contrasted with its cabins, wilder ones and pioneer neighbors, on both sides of the grand river—the rich Irish barrister and his accomplished wife and children spent nearly six years of delightful existence. His retinue of employes and servants was large, and

while the house was in process of erection and the improvements of lawns and farm progressing, afforded sustenance to many in those years of hardships and scarcity. His gardener, Peter Taylor, had been brought from England. Thomas Neale, a pioneer of Virginia was long his dairyman and farm superintendent.

The self-exiled Blennerhassett, when seeking relaxation change from his library, pictures violincello and chemical laboratory spent the hours in the village of Newport, on the Virginia shore, or at Belleville settlement, at Farmer's Castle in Belpre, or the Harmar fort, chatting socially with those congenial pioneers. When at social gatherings he invariably appeared in the described outfit of an English gentleman.

His wife, lady Margaret, was properly the mistress of a refined home. Both were hospitable, fond of party and dance, and often broke the isolation of their water-encircled home by invitations to her drawing room of the youth and beauty of the villages on both shores, she being the very center and magnet of an animated circle. She had been, with scrupulous care brought up and educated in England by two maiden aunts, and was taught not only the languages and higher branches of a literary education, but initiated into the practical arts of house-wifery and supervision as well. She could read and fluently converse in Italian and French, and was endowed in mind and manner and educated to grace with ease any position in the courts of Europe. In figure she was tall and well proportioned, impressive in appearance, graceful yet dignified, with delicately moulded features, fair and almost transparent complexion, a swan-like neck, the feminine envy of that era, dark blue eyes of sparkling intelligence and radiant capability, abundant and glossy hair of rich brown hue. In dress her taste inclined to the showy and attractive, and she aimed to select and adapt her outfit to her well-shaped form.

She was passionately fond of outdoor exercise and recreation, rowing, riding and walking. Her step was elastic and graceful, whether passing among and caring for shrubbery and flowers or vaulting into the saddle of her favorite steed, or upon the waxed floor of the private ball-room; in each she was enthusiastic and admired. In the saddle she was an expert equestrienne, and her favorite horse, Robin, in his bright trappings seemed ever proud of his mistress, as both bounded swiftly along the forest road from the shore opposite the island to Marietta village or Fort Harmar and back again.



Often her cloth, scarlet riding robe, spangled with gold lace and glittering buttons and her flowing tresses waving beneath her ostrich-plumed hat, glimmered in the vine and leaf-tangled woods, as she fleetly rode along the river paths with her dusky, polite and faithful servant, Ransom, in the rear, spurring his charger to keep in sight of his charge, and only so doing when she checked her speed to await his coming. Like a fawn or fairy of sylvan creation she seemed to dart along her course beneath the green foliage, catching the inspiration of rosy health and elasticity. Her admirers boasted that as an athlete and pedestrian she could clear a five-rail Virginia fence at a single bound.

It is said that a farmer's son of Belpre rented and cultivated a field of corn on the island, near the avenue leading from house to river,\* for the sole purpose of stealing a look at her beautiful person as she passed by on her way to ride or walk, as accustomed on a pleasant day.

Over the current she could guide or propel a boat, handling the oars with forceful skill, always having a sable attendant, generally Moses, the waterman, near in case of accident. She sometimes went in a canoe as far as Parkersburg, then Newport, and even up the Kanawha to Beach Park, the home of the Hendersons.

In the dance room she was peerless, her step light, her motion graceful, and with the rapidity and ease of thought winding airily through each call and figure, she was a favorite in each sett.

\* "In conversation she was ready, versatile and engaging, being well-read in the general literature of her day, her conversational powers were great, showing clearness of perception and critically edifying. Her writings show a mind of deep sensibilities, in which the genius of thought gives finish and force to her sentences. There was a finish and beauty of experience interwoven with the subject on which she wrote, which created a corresponding sympathy in the mind of the reader." Elsewhere, as pertaining to sorrows of after days, is quoted one of her poems, indited while at Montreal, Canada. She wrote and subsequently published a volume entitled, "Widow of the Rock."

† A friend of the family, with opportunity to traditionally know, states that "Mrs. Blennerhassett introduced vaccination in

\* Pamphlet of S. C. Shaw.

† Maria P. Woodbridge, in Lippincott's Magazine, of Feb., 1879.

the West. During frequent visits to New York her children were vaccinated. She preserved the virus, invited parents to send their little ones to the island, and successfully performed the operation. One of the children long recollected the beautiful Mrs. Blennerhassett. Admiration, love and respect and sympathy are felt for her as we follow her changing life from happy gaiety to lonely death in a New York garret."

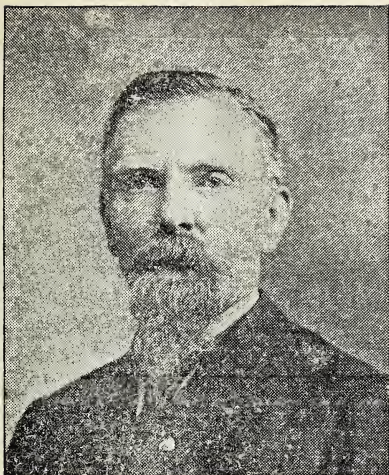
Edenic was the delightful home and domestic happiness, and quiet roseate surroundings of the Blennerhassett family, and such a portrayal of their appearance and character till the dawn of the year 1805.

### **Burr's Biography.**

In Newark, New Jersey, 5th November, 1756, was born Aaron Burr, whose combination with the owner of the historic island, within the domain of our territory, brings his biography in brief into our volume at this point.

\* He entered Princeton College at 12 years of age and graduated in 1772; studied theology with a clergyman in Connecticut; entered the Continental army in 1775; distinguished himself at Quebec, Monmouth, New Haven, and resigned, owing to ill health 10 Mar., 1779; studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1782; began practice at Albany, and in 1783 removed to New York; was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1784 and 1798; Attorney General of N. Y. in 1789 and 1790; Commissioner of Revolutionary Claims in 1791; a Democratic U. S. Senator from New York, 24 Oct., 1791, to 3 March, 1797. At the Presidential election of 1801, Burr and Jefferson had each 73 electoral votes, and the House of Representatives on the 30th ballot chose Jefferson President and Burr Vice-President. In 1804 he was the Democratic candidate for Governor of New York and was defeated by Morgan Lewis by 8000 majority; mortally wounded Alexander Hamilton in a duel at Weehawken, July 12, 1804; after endeavoring to revolutionize the Mississippi Valley, he was arrested and brought to Richmond, where he was tried in August, 1807, on a charge of treason and acquitted; to escape persecution and his creditors, he went abroad in 1808; returning to New York City in 1812, he resumed law practice, and died on Staten Island, at Port Richmond, Sept. 14, 1836.

\* From the Directory of Congress.



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A cache of 17 Flint Knives  
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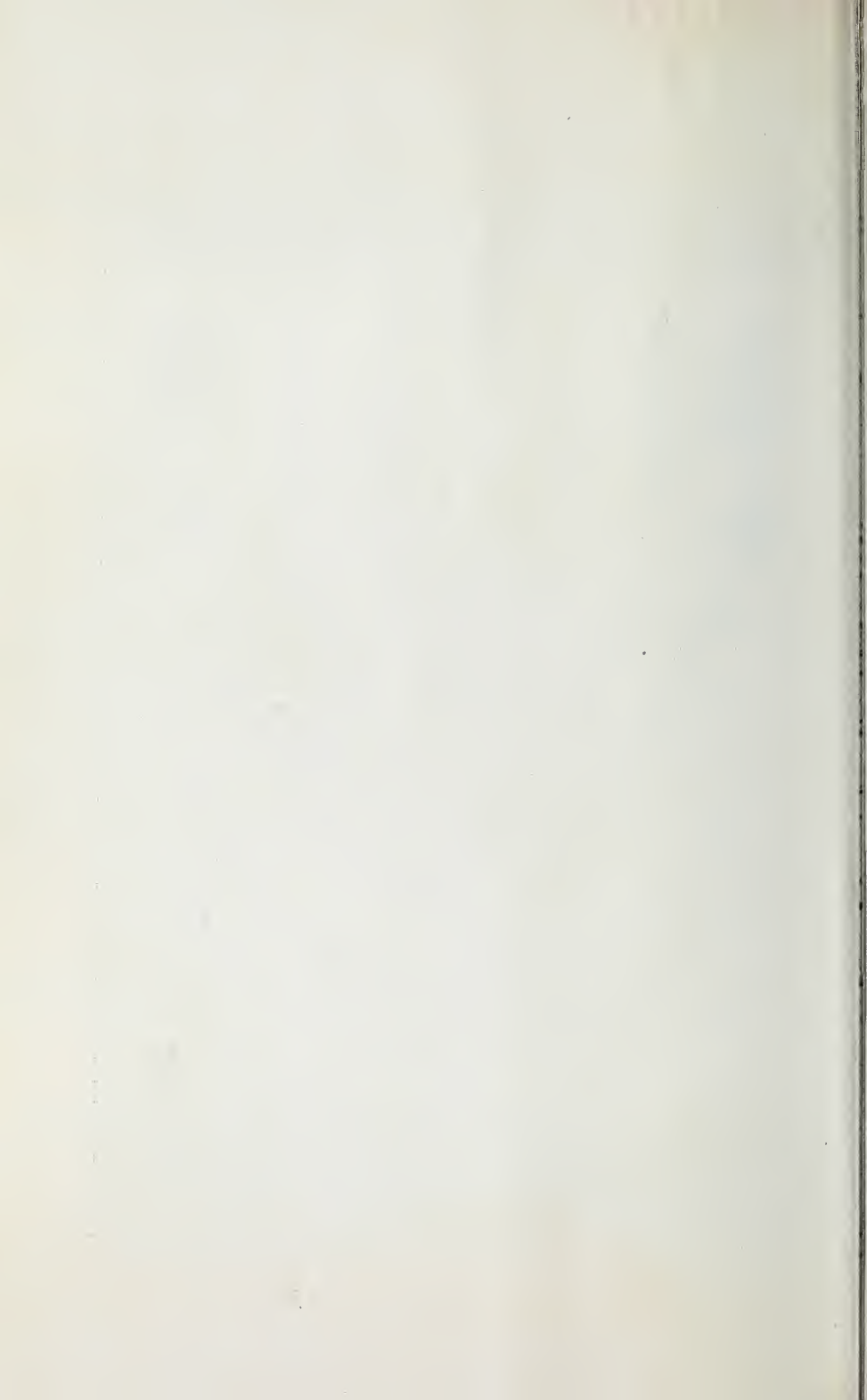
The five Flint Knives in this  
card were presented to this  
Collection by Mr. L. C. Hutton.



This necklace is the first of its kind

Ever found in this part of the world.

Cannel Coal, Copper, & Bird-bone Beads  
From Glennerhasset Island.







*Albion*



*Theresa*



About 10th April, 1805, seeking surcease from the poignancy of recent events, and perhaps with a determination to retrieve political heights and power by new evolutions and schemes, in a vague way, he wandered West from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, and there arriving about the 30th, on a boat previously ordered and arranged for, he descended the Ohio river. The craft is thus described :

\*"His boat was a rude floating house, or ark, 60 feet long, 14 feet wide, containing four apartments, a dining room, a kitchen with fire place and two bed rooms, all lighted by glass windows, and the whole covered by a roof, which served as a promenade deck. The cost of this commodious structure, to his astonishment, he found was only 133 dollars. Of propelling power it had none, but merely floated down the swift and winding stream, aided occasionally and kept clear of snags and sand banks by a dextrous use of the pole. In the Spring the current of the Ohio rushes along with surprising swiftness, carrying with it an ark or raft eight miles an hour. It would be a resistless torrent at that time but for its innumerable bends. Along the whole course hills steep, picturesque and lofty, rise almost from the bed of the river and pour their streams headlong into it, whenever the rain falls or the snow melts. For hundreds and hundreds of miles this most monotonously beautiful of rivers winds and coils itself among those ever-varying seldom-receding hills, skirted by a narrow fringe of bottom lands. Those hills, soon to be vine-clad, were then one forest ; those bottoms, now smiling with farms, or disfigured by the shabbiest of towns and villages, were then destitute of inhabitants for hundreds of miles at a stretch .

He stopped briefly at Marietta on the 5 of May, to see the mounds and antiquities there, within sight of old Fort Harmar. Here the leading citizens called upon him to offer civilities and hospitalities, as to one who had been honored with the high office of Vice-President of the Union and had filled the chair so ably in the National Senate.

In the hours of his stay, doubtless, he had opportunity to hear of the elegant mansion, almost princely, of the Barrister and of its occupants, to whom the Ohio Company's settlers were more than friendly, even attached, and to welcome suggestions to stop and view the estate.

\*Parton's Life of Aaron Burr.

Resuming his journey, as the evidence appears, he next, a few hours after, could not pass the island without placing feet on the soil, and strolling over the grounds, in company with a Mrs. Shaw. Blennerhassett was absent, but upon invitation of his ever courteous wife, who observed the strangers and tendered the hospitalities of her home, entered and passed the hours in conversation till eleven o'clock, when Burr re-embarked and proceeded down the river, being impressed with the desirability of securing an auxiliary and friend in his absent host, the lord of the manor; and having deeply impressed his hostess with his fascinating powers, and the splendor of his official position.

Early in December Burr wrote a letter to Blennerhassett, in which he expressed his regret at not making his personal acquaintance when accidentally visiting the island, alluded cautiously to the talents of his absent host, as deserving wider fields and greater rewards, and indirectly stimulated him to action, and suggested plans to increase his fortune and attain a more exalted position of usefulness and honor.

To this adroit communication reply was made, admitting a desire to participate in any speculation which might be presented, as, in Burr's opinion, worthy to engage his talents.

"I contemplated," says he in his Brief at the Richmond trial thereafter, "not only a commercial enterprise or land purchase, but a military adventure was distinctly mentioned in which I should engage." He conceived the country on the eve of a Spanish war, when it would be necessary to bring all the talents of the people into play, among which was Burr's, and under such considerations was willing to engage in any enterprise to subjugate the dominion of Spain, the prospective enemy of the Republic.

Other correspondence followed, and in August, 1806, with his accomplished and fascinating daughter, Theodosia, wife of Gov. Joseph Alston, of South Carolina, he visited a second time the island.

Father and daughter had embarked, with her infant son, at Pittsburg, and near the close of the month on their descent the voyagers reached Marietta. It was General Muster Day, and as an honored guest Burr interviewed the militia and put them through a few evolutions to the satisfaction of admiring spectators. In the eve they attended a ball and completely conquered all, he



by courtly grace and manners, and Theodosia, by the magnetism of her beauty and the flash of her feminine witticisms.

This interview and stay at the island is graphically described in its effects by the eloquent William Wirt :

“A shrubbery, which Shenstone might have envied, blooms around him ; music that might have charmed Calypso and her nymphs, is his ; an extensive library spreads its treasures before him ; a philosophical apparatus offers to him all the mysteries and secrets of nature ; peace, tranquility and innocence shed their mingled delights around him ; and, to crown the enchantment of the scene, a wife who is said to be lovely beyond her sex and graced with every accomplishment that can render it irresistible, has blessed him with her love, and made him the father of her children. The evidence would convince you that this is only a faint picture of real life. In the midst of all this peace, this innocence, this tranquility, this feast of mind, this pure banquet of the heart, the destroyer comes. He comes to turn this paradise into a hell ; yet the flowers do not wither at his approach, and no monitory shuddering, through the bosom of their unfortunate possessor, warns him of the ruin that is coming upon him. A stranger presents himself ; introduced to their civilities by the high rank he had lately held in his country, he soon finds way to their hearts by the dignity and elegance of his demeanor, the light and beauty of his conversation and the seductive and fascinating power of his address. The conquest was not a difficult one. Innocence is ever simple and credulous ; conscious of no design itself, it expects none in others ; every door and portal of the heart are thrown open and all who choose it, enter. Such was the state of Eden when the serpent entered its bowers. The prisoner in a more engaging form, winding himself into the open and unpracticed heart of Blennerhassett found but little difficulty in changing the native character of that heart and the objects of its affections. By degrees he infuses into it the poison of his own ambition ; he breathes into it the fire of his own courage ; a daring and desperate thirst for glory ; an ardor panting for all the storms and bustle and hurricane of life. In a short time the whole man is changed ; and every object of his former delight is relinquished. No more he enjoys the tranquil scene ; it has become flat and insipid to his taste. His books are abandoned ; his retort and crucible thrown aside ; his shrubbery blooms and breathes its fra-



grance upon the air in vain—he likes it not; his ear no longer drinks the melody of music—it longs for the trumpets clangour and the cannon's roar. Even the prattle of his babes, once so sweet, no longer affects him, and the angel smiles of his wife, who hitherto touched his bosom with ecstasy so unspeakable, is now unfelt for and unseen. Greater objects have taken possession of his soul; his imagination has been dazzled by visions of diadems, and stars, and garters, and titles of nobility—he has been taught to burn, with restless emulation, at the names of Cromwell, Cæsar and Bonaparte."

Theodosia, with womanly tact, won her way, and with her father's desire for adventure and an imperial elevation, infused the same spirit and hopes into the heart of Margaret, and they were dreamers together, and constructed their castles while active preparations began in earnest for the fitting out of some mysterious expedition.

The month of September was full of activity, ardor and preparation for the great consumation of something yet not distinctly revealed. Burr and Blennerhassett proceeded to the counting house of Dudley, Woodbridge & Co., of Marietta, in which firm Blennerhassett was a partner, and ordered the building of boats and purchase of a quantity of provisions. The batteaux were to be 15, ten of which were to be 40 feet long and five of 50 feet length, and all 10 feet wide and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep, and after the Schenectedy model, such as were in use on the Mohawk river. The conveyance capacity of this flotilla was to be 500 men. A separate keel-boat, 60 feet long, was to be constructed for arms, ammunition and provisions. One of the larger boats was to be fitted up in better style for the family of the leaders. It was to have separate rooms, fire place and glass windows at the sides. The provisions were to cost 2,000 dollars and the boats a like sum.

The contract to build, at his boat-yard, seven miles above the mouth of the Muskingum, was given to Col. Jos. Barker, who had erected the island mansion. They were to be delivered 9th December. The expedition provisions were to be pork, bacon, flour, kiln-dried meal, whiskey and smaller articles.

With definite understanding then Burr and his aid parted. During the period of absence Blennerhassett was intensely busy near his residence and old social haunts overseeing and urging

forward the building of boats, the purchase and storage of provisions, and drying in numerous kilns corn upon his island and soliciting recruits.

To some young men he stated the object was to settle Western lands, to others that the destination was Mexico, saying that undoubtedly there would arise war with Spain. He wrote a series of essays and published them in a Marietta paper, over the signature "Querist," showing that the Western country would be advantaged by a separation from the Atlantic States. Such views, it must be admitted, were prevalent, largely in Kentucky, and over the entire West, and were not considered treasonable. The essays were answered under the signature "Regulus," from the pen of Jared Mansfield, U. S. Surveyor, appointed by President Jefferson.

While these operations were going forward under the propulsion of Blennerhassett, Burr for recruits and perfection of general plans, went to Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Kentucky and Nashville. At the latter town he contracted to build 6 boats, on the Cumberland, and deposited \$4,000 with General Jackson to pay for them. He also contracted to purchase 4,000 acres of land on the Washita, a branch of the Red river, for \$40,000, and paid thereon \$5000. The settlement of a colony upon these lands was represented to be the sole object of the proposed expedition.

Then Comfort Taylor, of New York, was recruiting men and collecting supplies at Pittsburg, with which he was to embark upon several boats at that point and join the Blennerhassett fleet at the island. Daniel Floyd, of Indiana Territory, was similarly employed near the Falls of the Ohio, and was to connect with the fleet when it came down.

In October Theodosia was joined by her husband, the Governor of South Carolina, who was drifting into the enterprise, and they with Blennerhassett left the island in charge of Margaret and visited Lexington, Kentucky.

The arrangement was to rendezvous November 1st; to leave Ohio Falls by the 15th with 500 to 1000 men; to be in Natchez, Miss., from 5th to middle of December to meet General Wilkinson.

In 1787, then a citizen of the Kentucky section of Virginia, Wilkinson had loaded a boat with flour and tobacco and descend-

ed the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, with the "ostensible purpose of making arrangements with the Spanish authorities by which to secure to the inhabitants of the upper country a free navigation of the Mississippi and a market for their produce." \*

In consequence of these semi-military and scarcely concealed operations and movements, rumors followed each other in rapid succession, on both sides of the river in the vicinity of the island.

Early in October, 1806, there was a mass meeting of citizens in Wood county, expressive of alarm for the safety of the country, by accumulating evidence of the complicity of Burr and Blennerhassett in a mysterious and many believed treasonable design. The cause of their apprehension proceeded from a partial revelation of the objects of the expedition, to some of his more intimate acquaintances, by Blennerhassett, and to whom also he had made a secret acknowledgement of the authorship of "Queerist."

The public meeting, as appears from manuscript papers once held by a prominent lawyer and actor in the agitation of the popular mind, and now preserved by descendants of a pioneer family in Mason county, was united in its action and thoroughly patriotic in its motives and declarations. The proceedings read :

"At an assemblage of a number of citizens, at the Court House of Wood county, for the purpose of taking into consideration Burr's Expedition, Col. Hugh Phelps was appointed Chairman, and James G. Laidley, Secretary.

Among others present appeared Alexander Henderson, Peter Anderson, Robert Kincheloe, Thomas Tavenner, James Compton and many others.

The object of the call was briefly and succinctly stated by the chair to be to take steps to protect the honor and safety of the settlers and their property, and to cause every person friendly to the Constitution of the United States to express their attachment thereto. The situation was exceedingly alarming and instant action is incumbent. Hostility to peace and good order was being manifested, and it is for you, gentlemen of the new county, to determine a course of procedure.

On motion, it was, without dissent, resolved, that a Committee be appointed to draft and to report forthwith resolutions ex-

\* Opinion, 20 Oct., 1807.

pressive of strong disapprobation to the plan laid down by many ambitious characters, and that a volunteer company be raised to protect our county.

The chair selected Alexander Henderson, James Wilson, Jacob Beeson, Hugh Phelps, George Creel, Jr., John G. Henderson, Robert Kincheloe, James G. Laidley, Thomas Tavenner, Reece Woolf, William Beauchamp, George Creel and James H. Neal.

While the gentlemen selected were in council discussing a course of action and framing proper wording, speeches were made by various persons present. Great diversity of opinion was had as to extent of guilt of those suspected, and the object of the movements on the island, yet there was unanimity as to necessity for a prompt and military course.

On return to the body of the court room, the following was reported by those delegated to advise, and without disagreement adopted as the views of every one present :

“Resolved by the Committee appointed by the Citizens of Wood County, that met this 6th day of October, 1806, for the Purpose of deliberating on the measures necessary to be adopted in this alarming Crisis to Counteract what is supposed to be the ambitious and disorganizing views of Aaron Burr and his Partisans in this Western Country :

“1. That it is expedient that the Citizens of Wood County should without delay form themselves into a Volunteer corps or body of men, in order to train themselves to Arms and Military discipline for the purpose of Defending themselves and their property from any Threatened Attack and Repelling any Aggression that may be Attempted by any Insurgents inimical to the Interests of the United States, until some more effective measures can be adopted by the President of the United States. That to effect this laudable purpose, it is Recommended that six subscription papers be immediately drafted and handed round the County, in order to Procure Subscribers to the same, enrolling themselves in the said Body. And that it is proper that a meeting should be held of the said persons enlisting themselves as aforesaid, at the Court House of Wood County, on the 11th day of this present month, for the purpose of Choosing by ballot Proper Officers to command the said Corps and adopt Proper rules and Regulations for their future Conduct.

“And that the Colonel of the 113th Regiment of Virginia Militia be requested to use the most effective means to collect the Public Arms of said Regiment and have them forthcoming at the Court House of this county on the 11th day of this present month ;



and also that the persons appointed to hand round the said Subscription papers should request the subscribers to their respective papers to volunteer in bringing forward any private arms they may be in possession of at the said time.

“Resolved, that Alexander Henderson, Peter Anderson, Robert Kincheloe, Thomas Tavenner, James Compton and James G. Laidley are proper persons to be appointed to hand round the said Subscription papers.

“Resolved, that a Copy of the Proceedings of this Committee be forwarded to the Printer of the Ohio and Monongalia Gazettes, to be printed in their respective newspapers, and that a printed Copy of said Proceedings be forwarded with as much expedition as possible to the Executive of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the President of the United States.

“Resolved, that a Permanent Committee of five persons be appointed to Regulate the proceedings necessary to be pursued during the existence of danger, and that said Committee or a majority of them should meet whenever an emergency may seem to them to require it; and that the said Committee be empowered to call meetings of the citizens of Wood County; and that Col. H. Phelps, Robert Kincheloe, Jacob Beeson, Alexander Henderson and George Creel, Jr., are considered as fit persons to compose said Committee.

“Resolved, that it is incumbent a permanent Secretary should be appointed to said committee, and that James Wilson is a fit person for that purpose.

“Resolved, that the foregoing resolutions are founded on a firm attachment to the Constitution of the United States, and adopted in support of the Liberties guaranteed to us by the same, submitting ourselves always to the Constituted authorities.”

#### VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT.

Pursuant to Resolutions submitted to the consideration of Sundry Citizens of Wood County on the 6th day of October, 1806, and adopted, it is considered that the alarming Situation of existing affairs in this Western Country, render it immediately and essentially necessary for every true friend to his country, in support of that Constitution and of that Government for which our forefathers have bled, and having gained under which themselves and their children have so long happily lived, to adopt measures of defense against the views of any ambitious and disorganizing Demagogues inimical to the interests of the same; for which purpose the Citizens of Wood County, in conformity thereto, are expected to come forward upon this occasion by subscribing their



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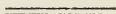
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names to this paper to form themselves into a Volunteer independent Corps, to effect said purposes, until some more effective steps for our safety can be taken by the President of the United States of America.

Robert Kincheloe,  
Wil'm Prince,  
Hubbard Prince,  
John Johnson,  
Peter McCaul,  
Samuel Allen,  
John Gibbins,  
John Carpenter,  
James Melrose,  
William Hill,  
Nimrod Saunders,  
David Creel,  
Henry Thornton,  
Henry Gillaspie,  
Thomas Creel,  
Elijah Phelps,  
Geo. Ruble,  
Leonard Caplinger,  
James Dutton,  
Richard Lee,  
Bennett Williams,

John G. Henderson.

Robert Wells,  
W. Minor,  
Robert Shanklin,  
Richard Arnold,

William D. Bayley,  
Edward McPherson,  
Lawrence King,  
Levi Barton,  
Thomas Thornton,  
John Caplinger,  
Daniel Brown,  
Willis Owens,  
William Gillaspie,  
William Dixon,  
Francis Tierney,  
Elijah McDonale,  
William Melrose,  
James Beaby,  
Robert Page,  
Henry Lord,  
James Lord,  
Jeptha Kincheloe,  
Alexander Creel,  
Joseph King,  
John Gillaspie,

Jeremiah Brown,  
James Ringlesby,  
Jorisha Smawler,  
Joseph Johnson,

David Rawson.

Charles Murphey,  
Benniah Badgeley,  
Thomas Leachman,  
Adam Ruble,  
Polser Ruble,  
Philip Harter,  
Christopher Coonrod,  
John Badgeley,  
Robert Edelen,  
Harison Sursons,  
John Spurlock,  
Elijah Rockhole,  
Walter Coe,  
Geo. Dunlevy,  
Jedra Darby,  
Thos. Gilrason,  
Peter Jett,

Thos. Tavenner,  
Peter Hannaman,  
John V. Browne,  
James Gibson,  
James Ward,  
John Pugh,  
Charles Paw,  
John Drake,  
Asahel Wilkison,  
E. McFarlane,  
George Jacobson,  
Joel Woolf,  
Peter McCall,  
John Carpenter,  
Samuel Coe,  
John T. Langfitt,  
William Sinclair,

## VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT—Continued.

William Langfitt,  
William Dyar,  
James Cunningham,

Andrew F. Dyar,  
John Coe,  
John Barns,

Z. Bockorees.

James Gillespie,  
John Melose, Jr.,  
Robert Triplett,  
Thomas Thornton,  
Sylvester Ward, Jr.,  
Rezin Barnes,  
John Owens,  
Jacob Beeson,  
George Creel,  
Daniel Rowell,  
John Stephenson,  
James G. Laidley,  
Thomas James,  
Hugh Phelps,  
Wm. Weedon,  
Yates S. Cornwell,  
Allen Davis,  
Nehemiah Lewis,  
Henry Woodyard,  
Jesse Woodyard,  
J. A. Murdough,  
Tunis Dils,  
Philip Dils,  
Peter Dils,  
Stephen N. Wilson,  
Walter Coe,  
William Eaton,  
Baley Rice,  
John Trevin,  
Thomas Dye,  
James Henderson,  
John Dils,  
Henry Dils,  
John Heany,  
Francis Langfitt,  
Robert Barnes,  
Geo. Creel, Jr.,  
J. G. Henderson,

Reece Woolf,  
John Neal,  
James Wilson,  
J. C. Griffin,  
Joseph Cook,  
Joseph Spencer,  
Timothy Darling,  
Elijah Moss,  
James Foley, Jr.,  
Moses Pilcher,  
Andrew Davison,  
William Enoch,  
James H. Neal,  
Walker Turner,  
Elias Gates,  
Chas. Rockhold,  
Jacob Trumbo,  
Jacob Shry,  
John James,  
Bennett Cook,  
Edward Coe,  
Elias Barnes,  
Elijah Barnes,  
Elias Davis,  
William Davis,  
Elias Hickman,  
Martin Bailey,  
James Davis,  
Sheph'd Conwell,  
Edward Gambrill,  
Lewis Gregory,  
Thomas Fais,  
Alexander Henderson,  
David Owl,  
Frederick Cradlebaugh,  
Jacob Owl,  
Isaac Smalley.

of Alex'r.

Mrs. Blennerhassett, hearing of the meeting at Newport, and being informed that a battalion of three companies, under command of Col. Hugh Phelps, were then mustering at the Point, intending to make descent that eve to burn the mansion and seize the kiln-dried corn, despatched Peter Taylor to Kentucky to inform her husband of the danger which menaced him and his property.

"On his way home he called on Dr. Bennett, of Mason county, to get more information and procure aid in case of attack, and protested the innocence of his designs."

He then wrote as follows : \*

WOOD COUNTY, 3 Nov., 1806.

COLONEL PHELPS :

Dear Sir—Just returned home after a journey of 700 miles. I hasten to express to you the satisfaction with which I learned, on the road, that you had been invested with the command of the two volunteer companies that had been raised in the county during my absence, as that circumstance afforded me a sure guarantee against the idle reports I had heard of any misguided violence intended by my neighbors, against my family or property, while I was not on the ground to defend them.

But the information my wife has given me of the purport of the friendly message (of protection, &c.,) you sent me, at a time when you thought it would be expedient, has laid me under personal obligations to you, and rendered it a duty with me to endeavor to revive our former neighborly intercourse, especially at a season when so much misconception misleads the people, propagated, as I have no doubt I can satisfy you, by your enemies and their own, when I shall have the pleasure of an hour's unreserved conversation with you, in which I expect I can make you some proposition that will engage your attention and be serviceable to your best interests. I therefore embrace the earliest opportunity of soliciting an interview with you, and, in consideration of my fatigue, I take the liberty of requesting to see you this evening, and accept a bed with us, or if that should be inconvenient to you, I shall do myself the pleasure of attending any appointment you may designate for to-morrow.

I am, dear sir, your obliged and obedient servant,

HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT.

REPLY.

NEWPORT, Nov. 6, 1806.

HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT,

Dear Sir: From circumstances of business, it was out of my power to attend at Col. Cushing's so early as my appointment. A short time after you left there I went over and found a note requesting me to wait upon you this day. I am sorry that, from similar circumstances, I shall not be able to comply; but if you should be at home, I shall do myself the pleasure to wait upon you to-morrow.

Your Obt. Serv't,

HUGH PHELPS.

Col. Phelps, having visited Blennerhasett according to appointment, the latter thanked him for informing his wife of

\* Safford's Blennerhasett Papers, p. 149.



rumors afloat and the measures adopted to meet the designs of himself and associates. He affected, however, to ridicule reports heard of the injuries threatened his family, and suggested that he suspected the other party in the country, under the influence of the Hendersons, was becoming so strong that its leaders would probably overturn the Colonel's interest, on which they had hitherto depended for whatever popularity they had acquired, and cautioned the Colonel against any coalition or co-operation they might seek with him, in existing clamor or suspicion against the views or intentions of Aaron Burr, or his friends, which the past conduct of the Hendersons toward him should induce him to avoid.

Col. Phelps, in reply, complained much of the ill treatment he had received from the Hendersons.

Blennerhassett stated his concern with Aaron Burr in the land purchase; that he solicited or invited no person to join in the emigration, though many had voluntarily offered to do so; but added that if the Colonel wished a concern for himself or his friends, he might look to the example of General Jackson and others of distinction, who, Blennerhassett understood were going to join in the settlement with many associates; that as to rumors, &c., circulated of Colonel Burr, or his friends, accusing them of engaging in anything against the laws of the United States, such were wholly groundless; but that it was not unlikely that the proximity of the purchase to the country where an engagement had already taken place, or might soon be expected between General Wilkinson and the Spaniards, would engage Colonel Burr and his friends in some of the early adventures of the war; General Jackson having already prepared to march with 1000 or 1500 of his Tennessee Militia, whenever he should think himself authorized by the orders and wishes of the Government to put that body in motion.

Colonel Phelps received the information by declining to embark himself, on account of his family and the unsettled state of his affairs, but said that he had no doubt many young men of Wood county would be glad to go with Blennerhassett, to whom he would recommend the speculation as he might have opportunities."

Soon after this episode Burr joined Blennerhassett for a conference as to plans and their execution, and soon left.



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From the vicinity of Newport, at the mouth of the Little Kanawha, and on both sides of the Ohio, where commotion was becoming alarming, and approval or censure directed upon the movement as each believed it patriotic and justifiable, or otherwise, reports went to Washington, to Richmond and to Ohio's Capital at Chillicothe. Based upon these, perhaps, the President sent a confidential agent, John Graham, Secretary of Orleans Territory, west to discover and reveal the situation. Arriving at Marietta about the middle of November, he met and interviewed along with others, Blennerhassett, who, upon being questioned, was impressed that he was conversing with a confederate and disclosed all he knew as to Burr's plans. Graham undeceived him, stated character of such an expedition to be objectionable and might be a violation of law and treaties, and endeavored in vain to persuade Blennerhassett to withdraw.

Thence information was sought at Newport and Belpre, and Graham thereafter went to Chillicothe, where the Ohio Legislature was in session, and held interviews with its leaders and the Executive. Governor Tiffin presented the situation by message. The Legislature considered the subject with closed doors, and passed an act to enable the Executive to suppress or defeat the alleged reprehensible scheme and expedition. Under this authority the Militia of the adjacent townships were ordered out under the command of Major-General Buell, with instructions to seize the flotilla built upon the Muskingum, and stores collected at Marietta, and all boats of suspicious character descending the river.

On the 27 November, 1806, President Jefferson issued his pronunciamento, alleging "that unlawful enterprises were on foot in the Western States, having for their object a military expedition against the dominion of Spain; that for this purpose sundry citizens of the United States were fitting out and arming vessels in the Western waters, collecting provisions, arms and military stores, and seducing honest and well-meaning citizens, under various pretences, to participate in said criminal enterprises; warning all persons engaged therein to withdraw from the same without delay, as they will answer the same at their peril and incur prosecution with all the rigors of the law; and commanding all officers, civil and military, to use their utmost exertions to bring the offending persons to punishment. Neither the name of Burr nor accomplices were mentioned.



On the 7th of December Comfort Tyler and Israel Taylor, from Beaver Pennsylvania, arrived on the island with 4 boats and about 32 men, and at that point all was confusion and expectation.

Blennerhassett addressed and sent by special envoy the following note to the boat contractor :

WOOD COUNTY, Dec. 9, 1805.

COL. BARKER ;

Dear Sir—I have immediate occasion for so many of the boats as are caulked and paid. I wish you therefore to forward them by Capt. Elliot and Mr. Dean to this place without waiting a moment for their covers, which we intend to finish ourselves, or on the way with the assistance of Col. Tyler's men and our own. You will forward, however, such of the materials as are got ready for completing the coverings, and make out your bill accordingly. For such of the boats as I cannot have here by to-morrow morning, Mr. D. Woodbridge and myself will make such arrangements as will be agreeable to you. You perceive I wish you to drop working on my family boat, which however I wish you afterwards to get ready in the most comfortable manner, for my wife and children—of whom some of my friends will take charge to follow on with the utmost expedition.

I am Dear Sir, Yours, &c.,

HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT.

To Col. Barker by Mr. Jas Dean.

In anticipation of departure of the flotilla, he addressed another letter to his friend and counselor, James Wilson, to be presented by his wife subsequently :

December 10, 1806.

Dear Sir—As circumstances render it improbable you can soon hear from me ; I request you to lend the earliest attention to the completing of a proper inventory of all the effects I leave here, and also to the recording of the deed I entrusted to your care which I think should be accompanied with an affidavit stating that it was delivered to you to be recorded the last December court which was not done for want of a court. I rely upon your honor and friendship in this and every other particular relating to much of my interest as you have professionally taken charge of.

I have amicably settled my difference with D. Woodbridge ; just as he will explain to you. My other business I trust in your care will be lucrative tho' not I flatter myself to the extent of better service I sincerely believe I shall hereafter be able to render you.

With hearty good wishes for your prosperity and the happiness of your family, I am, dear Wilson,

Your sincere friend,

HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT.

Of the fifteen boats contracted for on the Muskingum, only eleven were completed, and it was intended to deliver them on the 10th, but the day before they were seized by a detachment of six or eight of the militia, with all the provisions stored at Marietta.

Nearly all the recruits had been attracted to the enterprise under an impression that its character was untainted by disloyalty, indeed favored by the National Government, and that they might have to fight, only in case of war with Spain, but the activity of State authorities and the military seizure convinced them of their error, and Blennerhassett found himself deserted by the substantial portion of those he had pledged to the expedition, and, doubtless, but for the ambition, pride and intervention of his wife, would have also abandoned it. Some of the younger men were not so ready to desert the cause. At the fireside of a neighbor in Belpre, a party assembled, and decided by strategy and force in the darkness of the night to liberate the boats then in custody of the authorities on the Muskingum. As they were in the act of untying the boats a sentinel observed their purpose and sounded the alarm. Nevertheless, persisting in their efforts, a struggle ensued, without arms, for possession of the boats as they drifted out toward the center of the stream. By this time all but one were retaken by the militia, and in this captured one the ardent youth returned down the Ohio to their homes.

The Buell militia are thus facetiously described by Judge W. H. Safford in his well written volume.

"A warlike array of undisciplined militia, with cannon, necessary equipage and arms, stationed themselves along the banks of the river, to cut off the forces expected from above. Many amusing jokes were played off at the expense of the raw recruits during this campaign; such as setting an empty tar-barrel on fire and placing it in an old boat or raft of logs, to float by in the darkness of the night. The sentinels, after duly hailing and receiving no answer, would fire a shot to enforce their command; but still dread silence reigned, and calmly the phantom vessel, with her solid crew, floated onward and downward, in utter recklessness as if the crowing of a farm-house cock only had disturbed the night's silence. Irritated at such manifest contempt of their high authority, they plunged into the stream to seize the boat and capture its luckless navigators; when 'con-

fusion utterly confounded, ' naught appeared but the remains of a log or barrel, which some laughter-loving wag had freighted for their mischance and his amusement.

"On another occasion, they had learned that Tyler and his men had passed down the river as far as Blennerhassett's island, from whence he was expected to return, to recapture the boats and provisions. To cut off all possible communication with Marietta, where the boats were tied, particular instructions were given in the evening, to bring away all the water-crafts from the lower side of the Muskingum. Several sailors, who boarded on the opposite shore, considered the opportunity for sport too favorable to pass unimproved. The plan first proposed for the accomplishment of this end, was to raise an armed party, with blank cartridges, and fire at the sentinels. Upon strict search, however, they found that all the muskets, blunderbusses, rifles and shotguns, had been previously appropriated by the militia. The cannon was then thought of, when this, also, it was ascertained, had been called to the aid of the State authorities. Determined not to be defeated, in the laugh they had promised themselves, they resorted to the expedient of emptying a half-keg of powder into a canvas sack, wrapping it closely with twine. This they deposited under ground, care being taken to leave a communication with the contents by means of a priming-hole and slow match. At midnight, when all, save the faithful and lonely sentinels, were enjoying that repose so necessary to the wearied soldier, after a destructive attack

'On whiskey and peach-brandy,'

a confused and foreboding sound, from the opposite shore, grated unmusically on the ear of the guards. Although appearances were somewhat ominous, yet they concluded not to disturb the slumber of their brothers in arms until a more satisfactory demonstration had been made. For this opportunity they were not kept long in suspense. Suddenly the earth began to heave and throe, as if drunk with the heel-taps of the soldiers' glasses, and, following in quick succession, a report that many mistook for the summoning trump of the end of time. The scene which succeeded is more easily imagined than described. Those less confused, did indeed, take time to adjust their outside garments, but much the greater number started with nothing but their nether vestments, without regard to uniform or military parade. Here stood one, vainly struggling to thrust his feet through the



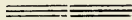
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armholes and sleeves of his linsey 'warmus,' while, at his side a companion had drawn his pants over his shoulders, illustrating most ludicrously, but literally, the lines of doggerel :

Put on his shirt outside his coat,  
And tied his breeches round his throat.'

"Shivering in the cold winds of December, they hurried in hot haste to the tanta-ran-ta of the trumpeter, and the rub-a-dub-dub of the drum major-general. Whether any had taken the precaution to load or prime is a question which time and reflection have never settled. The major, who was a tailor, is said to have charged the cannon with his goose—the State having made no provision for amunition. The deputy, as he mounted his horse, was heard to say that, "As great men were scarce, he thought it best to flee from danger." Had Tyler and his men been the real cause of their alarm, he would have doubtless met with a stern resistance, but, fortunately for him, he was unconsciously asleep on the island."

Soon after the mooring of Tyler's boats at the island landing, the Wood county militia were being assembled to carry out the President's proclamatory orders and avert the expedition. The island party had information that the companies from Newport were to descend on them on the morrow. So in haste, they prepared to depart that night. All was activity, and every recruit was in motion to run bullets, load the boats, and gather the still adhering ones. It was a chill night in fierce December, and the snow had fallen several inches deep.

\* In the evening Pearly Howe, who had been employed to make 40 boat poles for the flotilla, on the evening of the 10 Dec. went to deliver them on the Ohio side landing. On signaling over, a flat was sent to receive them. On the boat two young men, recruits, were acting as sentinels, each armed with a rifle. No persons, unless known, were allowed to pass from the Ohio shore to the island. One of the guards laid down his rifle in the bow, while the other sat, with his gun across his thighs ready for action.

Simon Pool, about dusk, under authority of the Ohio Governor went to the water's edge, his utmost limit of jurisdiction, opposite the island landing, hoping to find chance to apprehend Blennerhassett on Ohio soil, but was not permitted to pass beyond the sands of his State.

\* Evidence as witness on the trial.

There was a regular pass word for crossing the channel. Some one on the island would ask to the hailing boat, "What boat?" If answer was "Ise boat," the craft was unfastened and sent over. A watchword was also used on the Ohio side.

With forty or more men in four boats and a smaller one added by Blennerhassett, and a liberal stock of provisions, five rifles, three pair of pistols, one blunderbus, and all the outfit they had secured, Blennerhassett and his assistant directors, lifted moorings and passed out upon the stream into the night.

The island was left almost in loneliness, with Mrs. Blennerhassett and her two sons, Dominick and Harman, Jr., and a few servants, who were all to follow in a few days in the special boat yet on the Muskingum.

With the dawn of the morrow the Wood county militia were astir, and in a few hours appeared at the deserted isle, with Hugh Phelps, their stalwart Colonel in command of the two companies. Too late, the anticipated game had flown. Leaving a small party of men in charge of the premises, the commander, with the remainder of his volunteers, promptly marched down on the Virginia shore, across the great bend to intercept the fugitives at Point Pleasant. The direct distance by land being less than one-half that by water, the military arrived at Kanawha's mouth many hours before the boats. Colonel Phelps stationed his men on the bank of the Ohio with strict injunctions to watch all night. The air was raw, the surroundings uncomfortable, the villagers sociable and providing, the whiskey flask was frequently circulated, overcoming tired limbs, and thoughts of duty and discipline, the watchers got ingloriously drunk and soundly slept, the Tyler flotilla in the night's obscurity glided by and pursued its way unhailed and unmolested, and by day-dawn was too far on its course to be overtaken. In similar way it passed toward its destination, uniting at the Falls, on the 16th with Floyd's boats, and ten days later joined Burr at the mouth of the Cumberland, and on the 29th passed Fort Massae, notwithstanding orders had been given by State Governors for its arrest.

At the island, before the arrival of the militia, Mrs. Blennerhassett had mounted her charger, Robin, and was on her way to obtain the family boat at Marietta, and follow the expedition. In this she failed and on her return home found a deplorable condition existing.

Several days previous to the flotilla's departure from the island, a party of fourteen young men, late students fresh from academy, with Morgan Neville and William Robinson, Jr., sons of influential and rich parents, widely and favorably known, adventurous and hoping to join the expedition to the Spanish dominions, embarked in a flat-boat at Pittsburg for the purpose. When nearly opposite the mouth of the Little Kenawha, their boat was, during the night, driven ashore by the wind and ice, and the next day they were all arrested by the militia forces at Newport, and in their own craft escorted to the island, to await the return and pleasure of Colonel Phelps, then still absent at Point Pleasant. The young men, restless under their captivity and disappointment in not connecting with the Blennerhassett flotilla, in their humor and chagrin ridiculed their captors in homespun, and threatened legal retaliation for their arrest and detention. Such impertinence became unbearable to the guards, and Justices of the Peace were sent for to Newport. Reece Wolfe and Daniel Kincheloe responded, and in one of the richly furnished apartments of the island mansion the trial was conducted. The young men, with ability and humorous adroitness, pleaded their own cause, and nothing of a positive or unpatriotic character being produced, they were released.

During this rather comical examination, and the absence of the Colonel, who was a soldier and a gentleman, a spirit of license and devastation took possession of the militiamen left in charge.

\* "First of all, the men broke into the wine cellar, and there drank themselves into vandals. Then they ranged the house, destroying or disfiguring wherever they went; firing rifle balls through painted ceilings, tearing down costly drapery, and dashing to pieces mirrors and vases. Then they rushed, like so many savages, about the grounds, destroying the shrubbery and breaking down trellises and arbors. The ornamental fences were torn away, piecemeal, to make fires for the sentinels at night. In the midst of this riot and destruction Mrs. Blennerhassett returned; but the embarrassments of her situation, and her anxiety for the success of the expedition were such that she surveyed the ruins of her abode with indifference."

In this dilemma the young men who had been recently relieved of captivity, prepared to continue their journey, and, with sincere

\* Parton's Life of Aaron Burr, page 437.



sympathy and courtesy, offered her and her helpless children an apartment in their boat.

At this juncture the Colonel arrived from his tour of fruitless attempt to check the flotilla. He witnessed, with inward mortification and anger, the wanton destruction of the premises, and the evidences of revelry and ruin by his men, during his compulsory absence, and turning upon them, with withering look and stern voice, he exclaimed, \* "Shame! Shame! Shame on such conduct! You have disgraced your district and the cause in which you are concerned."

Courteously then and kindly he met the released strangers, acceded to their wishes and that of their invited guest for the voyage, aided her in preparation for departure, and expressed to Mrs. Blennerhassett sorrow for the rudeness shown so recently, assured her of what she already knew, that were he present the vandalism would not have happened.

Next morning, 17 of December, with the assistance of the Colonel, as well as the young men, needed furniture, part of the library, trunks and provisions were put aboard another boat, that of A. W. Putman of Belpre—who also assisted in departure—lashed alongside, sadly, with shattered dreams, the Blennerhassetts, wife and boys, bade adieu to a once blissful abode, and the boats sped on their way.

Early in January the family were reunited at Bayou Pierre on the Mississippi.

Neither the purpose of our local history or allotted space in the volume, will permit a detail of events in the unhappy destiny or subsequent lives of the alleged conspirators.

Briefly, the expedition was a failure; arrests followed the leaders, and both Burr and Blennerhassett were indicted at Richmond, Virginia, in the U. S. Circuit Court before Chief Justice Marshall, each on two charges, one for treason, the other for misdemeanor.

Burr was arrested on the Tombigbee river, in Washington county, Alabama, conducted to Fort Stroddart, was a prisoner there three weeks, and then, on horseback with guard of 9 men, under command of Perkins, started to Washington City. On the way President Jefferson dispatched at Fredricksburg a convey-

\* Judge Safford's Blennerhassett Papers.



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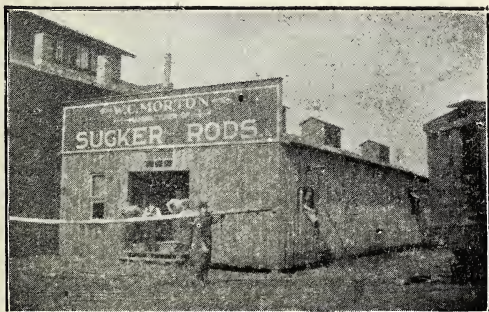
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ance to Richmond, Va. Blennershassett was arrested, tried and acquitted at Natchez by the Territorial authorities, who censured, as did the sympathizing people, Jefferson and the Administration for their fear and misconception.

\* "After this discharge from custody he located his family at Natchez, Mississippi; and in June following left that place on horse, to return to his island, and look after his affairs. When he reached Lexington, Ky., he was arrested for treason, and under guard conveyed to Richmond. Others of Burr's confederates who had means returned to the Eastern States, and forgot their dream of glory in the pursuit of civil life. Others remained in the Territory, supplying it with school teachers, music teachers, and dancing masters. These events, narrated in the papers of the day, drew the attention of thousands to the Western States from the east as emigrants."

"So great effect had this alleged Burr conspiracy upon the U. S. that in 1818 it carried the National Road over the Alleghany barriers to bridge a possible chasm to sever the Mississippi from the Union. Hence to meet this rival line, Virginia, 27 Feb. 1827, gave authority to construct a road from Winchester over the mountains to the Ohio river." †

So exceedingly bitter had become public opinion and so suspicious the multitude toward all who had not displayed animosity in conduct and speech against the expeditionist, that even friendly counsel was attacked and motives misconstrued. The Virginia Gazette, copying from the Aurora, declared:

"We are authorized to state from unquestionable authority that James Wilson, who was Secretary of the Wood County meeting last Fall, has been arrested as one of Burr's adherents, was examined before the magistrates, and found guilty."

Such statement was an error in fact. Warrant was issued, but by orders from Richmond, withdrawn: The attempt, however, thus to reflect upon the patriotism of a sensitive nature, so wrought upon the accused that he eventually migrated from the county, and settled in the Great Kanawha Valley.

\* Partons Life of Burr,

† Page 78, History, Preston, Wiley.



Blennerhassett, learning of this episode, in his Port Gibson retreat, on the 25th March 1807, mailed the following letter, which was received in the slow process of postal transportation, on 11 June.

NATCHEZ, March 11, 1807.

My Dear Sir—I hear first by Mrs. Blennerhassett of the embarrassment you underwent fr. the sagacity of yr. patriotic neighbors, who charged you with a participation in my crimes. Whatever inconvenience you have suffered on that account, my imagination has not failed to magnify, in proportion, as my best services will never be wanting in my endeavors to indemnify you for it.

Some particulars from you on this subject fr, you I feel much interest and anxiety to learn. I will now forbear to engage you further in this line, than to beg of you to refer my present sentiments to some future works that may verify their sincerity.

As you are probably curious to know something of my destiny and future prospects—I can inform you of the first, that the issue of my trial fixed here for May next, will constitute a small portion of the sand or mortar with which the monument now rising to the glory of Mr. Jefferson or the Constitution is to be cemented. Mr. Graham is to be the master-mason on that part of the work to be raised in this part of the country; with what address he will handle his tools is yet uncertain. Only amidst the jar of convictions and acquittals that will reach your ears, you will distinguish with your usual discernment the traverses of those lines of liberty and slavery of private honors and public duty that characterize the high minded administration of this free country and its happy constitution.

As for Col. Burr—he may sink or rise above his enemies, but he has forfeited no recognizance in spite of all the proclamations that can be issued by Government or Governors. I am almost tempted to enclose you Gen. Williams advertisement of his horse Diomede.

My future prospects embrace the occupation of a Cotton Planter, as the surest and easiest means of retrieving my shattered resources. Not that I have been mistaken in my belief that the practice of the law, would succeed well, but I have feared that to insure success some practice in intrigues must be united with a knowledge of law. As to yourself, therefore, if you could stoop somewhat to the former, as I know you are gifted in the latter, I should not hesitate to say to you, move immediately hither. You will be independant in 3 years; wealthy in 6. Think of this. You shall hear further from me more particularly as to the field here and in N. Orleans, when the weather is fairer and I can better advise you of the harvest you might make there, than at present.

My situation here, as it precludes at present the means of my returning to the Island to collect the property there, so it will

probably determine me ultimately against residing there again. I am now embarrassed by the want of my negroes, horses and household furniture which I have entreated Col. Cushing to forward to me in the best manner he can, with a statement of the amount of sales he has effected. In this I request you to assist him, and inform me of the general state, of all the business I left in your care, with every other concern of mine I am sure you will not disregard, because it was unnoticed to you. I particularly hope you have adjusted my account with Capt. Thomas Neale, &c, &c. I am persuaded you have not omitted to concern yourself, with Col. Cushing, of the amount or value of the saleable property you know I intended for sale. It is of importance to note everything down as soon as possible, and every article kept dry, and the horses, &c, that you could induce any purchaser to buy the rest—be gladly received here together with all the cash that can be forwarded. I write also to Doctor Wallace and Capt. Neale by the opportunity of Miss. Boat and Dana returning to Belpre, to whom I refer you for futher news &c. I have to request you to assist Mr. Biggs to collect and bring along any of my effects he may take up at the Island on his way to this place.

Mrs. B. retains with me the most friendly regards for Mrs. Wilson and yourself. I entreat you to write to me as soon and after as you can, and remember you can always command, dear Wilson, the last services of

Your devoted friend,

HARMAN BLENNERHASSETT.

## The Trial at Richmond.

This celebrated case was docketed for a trial to begin 30 Mar. 1807, but numerous delays ensued. It was in the United States Court for the Fifth Circuit of the Virginia District, presided over by the distinguished Chief Justice John Marshall, with Cyrus Griffin as associate.

The Grand Jury for which twenty-four freeholders were summoned and sixteen constituted, on 24 June brought in indictments against both Burr and Blennerhassett, and one against each for "treason," and another for a "misdemeanor," in levying war against the United States, at Blennerhassett island, time 10 Dec. 1806.

John Randolph, Foreman, presented on information of Peter Taylor, William Eaton, John G. Henderson, Jacob Allbright, D. Woodbridge Jr., Edmond B. Dana, Alexander Henderson, Hugh Phelps, and others. General Andrew Jackson was also a witness.

Next day presentments were made against Jonathan Dayton, Ex-Senator from New York; Comfort Tyler and Israel Smith of same state; John Smith, Ex-Senator from Ohio; and David Floyd of the Indian Territory, naming the place as Blennerhassett isle, and the time as 13 Dec. 1806.

On 26 June, forty-eight Jurors, twelve at least to be from Wood County, were ordered to be summoned. That day the prisoner, Burr, was removed from the gaol to the front room of the house of Luther Martin, used for a dining room. To secure it, shutters with bars, and the door with bar and pad-lock were provided, and seven men as guards on the floor of an adjoining unfinished house.

The jurors from Wood appeared, and were: Hezekiah Bukey, Jacob Beeson, William Prince, James G. Laidley, James Henderson, Nimrod Saunders, James Compton, Thomas Creel, Anthony Buckner, Hamilton Morrison, Yates S. Conwell and David Creel.

Among numerous witnesses for the prosecution over a broad territory, were: Hugh Allen, Simeon Poole, Edward B. Dana, Lewis Kerr, Jacob Jackson, John Blair, Alexander Rollston, Alexander Henderson, John G. Henderson, Hugh Phelps, Return J. Meig, Tunis Dils, Maurice P. Bellnap, Charles Duval, James Taylor, Bennett Cook, and Hezekiah Lewis, Peter Taylor gardner, Jacob Albright laborer, Dudley Woodbridge Jr., John Dana, Morgan Neville, Waldo Putnam and William Love groom.

Of all summoned as petit jurors, from Wood county, not one was admitted to the panel, each one having so expressed his views of the case as to be barred out.

In court Burr appeared with scrupulously neat attire, in black, with powdered hair and queue, in manner dignified, composed, polite, impressive, and hopeful, never under any provocation losing his temper, nor giving personal retort. He guided his assistant counsel, brought forward nearly every motion on his own side, and clearly and briefly stated the grounds therefor. Blennerhassett was as neatly and carefully attired, but less buoyant in spirits, and only could await the result of the trial of his principal's case.

The assisting counsel were: Edmund Randolph, an old-school gentleman; John Wickham, an Englishman of bearing, eloquence

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and logic, of fine presence and persuasive manner ; Luther Martin, one the most noted Lawyers of Maryland ; Benjamin Botts, father of John Minor, young, ready, dashy, and a caricaturist in word painting ; Charles Lee, once United States Attorney General ; and unique, "Jack Baker," a lame man, a merry fellow, with horse wit, but no lawyer or speaker, the humorist of the group. All these counsellors tendered their services gratuitously to Colonel Burr ; Wickham and Botts did likewise to Blennerhassett.

In selecting a panel the record states, beginning with the first, Hezekiah Bukey :

Botts : We challenge you for cause. Have you ever formed an opinion about the guilt of colonel Burr ?

Bukey. I have not, sir, since I have been subpoenaed.

Ques. Had you before ?

Ans. I had formed one before in my own mind.

Here Hay, the prosecutor, stated, he did not believe there was a single man in the state, qualified to become a juryman, who had not, in some form or other made up and declared an opinion on the conduct of the prisoner.

Botts. Have you said colonel Burr was guilty of treason ?

Bukey. No. I only declared that the man who acted as colonel Burr was said to have done, deserved to be hung.

Ques. Did you believe that colonel Burr was that man ?

Ans. I did, from what I had heard.

Wirt. Did I understand you to say that you concluded upon certain rumors that you had heard, that colonel Burr deserved to be hung ?

Bukey. I did.

Ques. Did you believe these rumors ?

Ans. I did.

Ques. Would you, if you were a juryman, form your opinion upon the question whether an over act of reason had been committed at Blennerhassett island, from the rumors heard ?

Ans. It was upon other rumors, and not upon that, that I had formed an opinion.

Martin submitted it to the court, whether he could be considered an impartial jurymen.

The court decided that he ought not to be so considered, and he was accordingly rejected.

James G. Laidley stated, that he had formed and expressed some opinions unfavorable to colonel Burr, that he could not pretend to decide upon the charges in the indictment, which he had not heard ; that he had principally taken his own opinion from newspaper statements ; and that he had not, as far as he recollected, expressed an opinion that colonel Burr deserved hanging, but that his impression was, that he was guilty. He was therefore set aside.

James Compton being challenged for cause and sworn, stated that he had formed and expressed an opinion from hearsay, that colonel Burr was guilty of treason, and of that particular treason of which he stood charged, as far as he understood. He was rejected.

Mr. Burr observed that as gentlemen on the part of the prosecution had expressed a willingness to have an impartial jury, they could not refuse that any jurymen should state all his objections to himself ; and that he had no doubt, in spite of the contrary assertions which had been made, that they could get a jury from this panel.

Hamilton Morrison upon being called, said, that he had frequently thought and declared that colonel Burr was guilty, if the statements which he had heard were true ; that he did not know whether they were so ; but only thought from the great clamour which had been made, that it might be possible that he had not passed any positive opinion ; nor was he certain that he had always qualified it by saying, "If these things were true," that he does not recollect to have said, that colonel Burr ought to be punished, without stating at the same time, "If he were guilty." Mr. Morrison was suspended for further examination.

Yates S. Conwell had formed and expressed an opinion, from the reports he had heard, that colonel Burr must be guilty of high treason. He was accordingly set aside.

Jacob Beeson declared, that he had for some time past formed an opinion, as well from newspaper publication, as from the boats which had been built on the Ohio, that colonel Burr was

guilty ; and that he himself had borne arms to suppress this insurrection. He was therefore set aside, as incompetent.

William Prince declared, he had nearly the same impression as Mr. Beeson ; that he too had borne arms ; as well on Blennerhassett's Island, as on descending the river, in search of Blennerhassett. He was set aside in like manner.

Nimrod Saunders declared, that he had expressed an opinion previously to his being summoned on the jury, that the prisoner had been guilty of treason. He was therefore set aside as incompetent.

Thomas Creel had no declaration to make, and was challenged for cause. Upon being interrogated, he stated, that he had never asserted that the prisoner ought to be punished, that he had said, that he was a sensible man ; and if there was any hole left, he would creep out of it ; that he had conceived that colonel Burr had seduced Blennerhassett into some acts that were not right ; that he had never positively said, that colonel Burr was guilty ; that he had said, that Blennerhassett was the most blamable, because he was in good circumstances, and well off in life ; whereas colonel Burr's situation was desperate, and that he had little to lose ; that he had not said, that colonel Burr had directly misled Mr. Blennerhassett, but through the medium of Mrs. Blennerhassett ; in short, that there was no determinate impression on his mind respecting the guilt of the prisoner.

The Chief Justice did not think, that this was sufficient to set him aside, and suspended his case for further examination.

Anthony Buckner had frequently said, that the prisoner deserved to be hung. He was therefore set aside. \*

David Creel had formed an opinion from the statement in the newspapers and if these were true, the prisoner was certainly guilty. He had expressed a belief that he was guilty of the charges now brought against him, and that he ought to be hanged. He was therefore rejected.

\* The pamphlet, "Biography of the Buckner Family" gives this fuller version of the examination of Col. Anthony Buckner :

"He had been as most of his comrades upon the same occasion, and his associates near the island-home of the Irish Barrister, who was also accused, open in his denunciation of Conspirator Burr, and indignant at the stupid acquiescence and aid given by his friend Blennerhassett. Upon being interrogated in court as to any expression of guilt or innocence in the pending case, replied that, "He had frequently



Subsequently, 11 Aug., James Henderson, of Wood County, who was absent yesterday, was called; he was challenged for cause. On being examined by Mr. Botts, he admitted that he was not a freeholder, and was consequently set aside.

Mr. Hamilton Harris was the next of the suspended jurymen who was called. He declared that it was with pain he should serve on the jury; that he did not wish to serve on it; that it was still more disagreeable to him, as the defendant seemed to have such imaginary thoughts against him; that he had not meddled with the prisoner's transactions, though perhaps he might have done so, had it been profitable to him. James Henderson and Mr. Neale were both examined as to what they might have heard him say on the subject, and both declared that they had heard him say nothing material.

Mr. Burr—Have not these rumors excited a prejudice in your mind against me?

Ans. I have no prejudice for or against you.

Mr. Botts. Are you a freeholder?

Ans. I have two patents of land.

Ques. Are you worth three hundred dollars?

Ans. Yes; I have a horse here that is worth the half of it.

Ques. Have you another at home to make up the other half?

Ans. Yes; four of them. (Here the court said, that sufficient cause had not been shown against his being a proper juror.) I am surprised why they should be in so much terror of me. Perhaps my name may be a terror, for my first name is Hamilton.

declared the opinion that any man who did as it was said the prisoner had acted, should be hung."

He was further asked: "Did you not say that you would give five pounds for Colonel Burr's head? Looking keenly at the prisoner, he replied, "Yes, by G—d, and I'll do it yet."

The silence for a moment was painful. You might have heard a pin drop. As he poured out these emphatic but not very elegant or courteous words, his piercing black eyes, that seemed to look through one, flashed fire upon the marbleized face of the distinguished defendant, but no order of contempt was therefor issued against him.

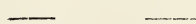
He and his son-in-law, George Creel Jr., had the night before going to the island, sat up during all its December hours, moulding bullets for the volunteer militia."

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Colonel Burr then observed, that that remark was a sufficient cause for objecting to him, and challenged him. Mr. Morrison was therefore set aside.

This was the first peremptory challenge which the prisoner made, of the thirty-five to which the law entitles him.

Thomas Creel, another of the suspended jurymen from Wood county, was next set aside by the court, because, he said, that he had both formed and expressed sentiments unfavorable to the prisoner.

None from the county of Wood but had so expressed opinions as to afford cause for rejection, so the jury had to be made up entirely from citizens distant from the place of alleged treason.

#### THE WITNESSES.

The official reports of the trial and other sources available this century after the event, do not furnish interesting incidents of narration of any value. They seem to indicate that the evidence of a conspiracy was not abundant in the locality of the island.

In substance, Peter Taylor, the gardener, said, that he had been with Blennerhassett three years ; in Oct. 1806 his employer had inquired for young men who had rifles, were orderly, and would conform to discipline ; that in this inquiry he stated that Colonel Burr had 80,000 acres of land in the southwest, and wanted young men to settle upon it ; that he would give any such one who would go down the river, plenty of grog and victuals while going down the stream, and three months provisions after they had got to the end ; and that every one enlisting must have his own rifle and blanket to bring with him.

Jacob Allbright, a Dutchman laborer, said that he was hired to build a kiln for drying corn on the island ; after the grain was dried it was sent to mill ; that he was four weeks on the island in that business ; that the snow was two or three inches deep when the Beaver boats landed at the pier : that Blennerhassett paid off in Kentucky notes, not very good to circulate ; that he went over to the bank at Kanawha to change them ; that he saw one or more moulding bullets in the kitchen ; that he assisted in carrying to the boats four or five trunks on the night of the departure.

William Love, the groom of Blennerhassett, alleged that it was a very cold night the hour the boats left the landing, raining and freezing ; that Blennerhassett's clothes were put into the



boat he was to occupy ; that Dudley Woodbridge slept on the island that night.

It was also shown that the boats left the shore Wednesday night of the 13th of December : that there were only four of them, and about thirty men therein ; that on the island when preparing to embark, some packed meat on aboard and some carried other things ; that they untied about one o'clock at night ; that there was one sick one left on the island. That Nahum Bennett was sent before day to pass Gallipolis, with two horses, to connect with the flotilla ; that Burr had been on the island not later than six weeks before the boats left shore ; that depositions for the trial were taken before John G. Jackson ; that the party had left at that hour in the night because the Kanawha militia were expected down very early next morning ; that a half bushel of candles and some brandy were taken into the boats ; that the party held a council at the foot of the pier, and all left together ; that they only intended to defend in case of attack by the expected mob, was the drift of declarations heard.

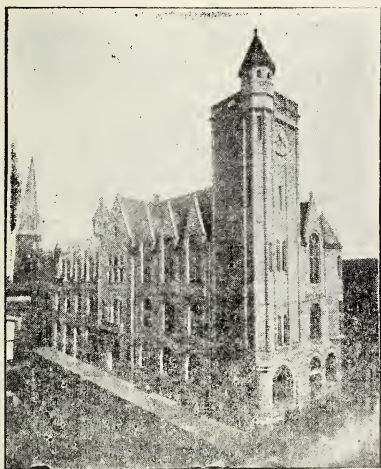
During the examination of witnesses, as well as in arguments thereon and thereafter, the eminent counsel on both sides displayed enthusiasm, legal learning, tact and forensic and poetic oratory. The press as well as the bar were impressed with the importance of the issues involved, and the attention of the people, from ocean to ocean and river border to southern gulf, was thoroughly engrossed. It was the only topic each day near the scene of the initial acts of the alleged conspiracy. In Wood county it was looked upon from both political and personal standpoints. By some, Jefferson, the President, was blamed as being too ardent, suspicious and partisanly vindictive without occasion, and by others his course was not only justified but commended, and the object of the attempted enterprise believed to have been unpatriotic and dangerous to civil liberty. Blennerhassett, however, with few exceptions, was considered deceived as to the nature and end of the expedition, and the sympathies of his admirers and neighbors went out strongly towards him in his financial and legal embarrassment and the serious accusations against him. Even Burr had among many west of the Alleghenies sincere devotees, and numerous sons of unrelated families near the close of that era bear his name as their own distinctive appellation.

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Late in September Burr was discharged on the main indictment in the United States Court, and the one for treason against Blennerhassett, though bond of \$5000 was given, with Dudley Woodbridge as security, was never prosecuted.

Judge Marshall ended the "misdemeanor" trial by stating:

"I shall commit Burr and Blennerhassett for preparing and providing means for a military expedition against the territories of a foreign prince with whom the United States is at peace. If those whose province and duty it is to prosecute offenders against the United States shall not be of opinion that a crime of deeper dye has been committed, it is at their choice to act in conformity with that opinion.

"If Burr is sent to Kentucky, Blennerhassett cannot be, because he has provided no means for an expedition but in the District of Ohio."

They were ordered committed to Ohio, and admitted to bail in the sum of \$3000 each; Luther Martin and Dr. Cummings became sureties for Burr, and Dr. Cummings and Israel Smith for Blennerhassett.

Both were in custody for long months, and as the act was one, the grade of leadership and guilt different but interlaced, the acquittal of Burr ended the prosecution, and virtually set both expeditionists free again, but left them wrecked in fortune and influence, and the ardor of their energies and ambition dampened.

## Desolation and Ending.

Within one year from leaving the island, Blennerhassett returned to find it desolate, his property seized for debt, many articles, among which was Robin a favorite horse, stolen, slaves sold or escaped, and house gutted of its contents. The prospect was in no wise encouraging, and it is not to be wondered that his naturally timid heart almost failed him.

The boats fitted up on the Muskingum had been modified for transports to carry United States troops from Marietta to St. Louis. Under orders of the President, the meal and one hundred barrels of pork stored for the expedition, had been sold and the



funds appropriated. Ransom Read, the best slave, for a debt of thirty-five dollars and costs, had been cried off at a public sale.

Negligence of tenants, river freshets, and the rudeness of those in charge who viewed it as public property, had rendered the building and surroundings pitiable to behold. Window casings had been torn out to procure the leaden weights by which the sashes were poised. The stone roller used to level his lawn and grounds, was broken, to obtain the iron axels on which it ran. Hemp and cordage machinery took the place of flowers and shrubbery.

He sadly looked upon the ruins of his once bright home, and returned to Natchez, purchased a plantation of 1,000 acres, at St. Catherine, near Port Gibson, Claiborne county, Mississippi, on it placed twenty-two slaves, and there, upon about 200 acres of it, began the culture of cotton. The war with Great Britain, in 1812-15, occasioned an embargo and reduction of values, and the enterprise was abandoned. He sold the plant entire for \$27,000, which scarcely satisfied his creditors.

The Blennerhassetts spent ten years on their cotton plantation, enjoying the society of a few choice friends. Harman, however, seemed to have dropped hope and muscular energy. During this period another son and a daughter were added to the home circle. Lady Margaret, with her characteristic industry rose at early dawn, mounted her horse, and rode over the grounds, examining each field, and giving directions to the overseer as to the work to be done that day, or any alteration to be made in the plans, which circumstances required.

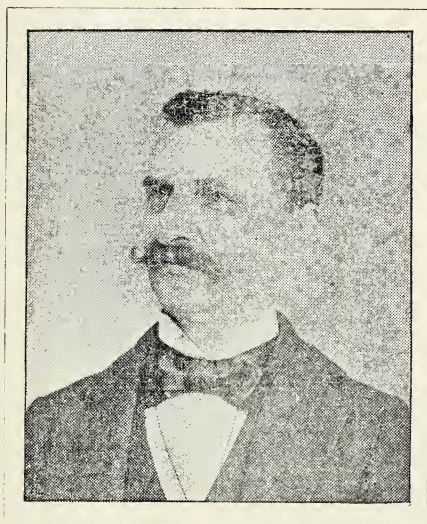
He removed to New York, and attempted the practice of law. Not succeeding, he went to Canada in 1819, and there also failed in his purposes. Then he visited Ireland, his native heath, to prosecute a reversionary claim, but was barred by statute of limitations. During this absence of her husband, Mrs. Blennerhassett found a home in New York, and was financially assisted by the Emmetts. She went then to Pennsylvania, where at Wilksbarre, her sister, Mrs. Dow, resided. She next joined her husband in Montreal, and while there, in 1824, wrote for publication a volume entitled, "Widow of the Rock and Other Poems." Among the productions of her pen while in Canada was the pathetic one named :

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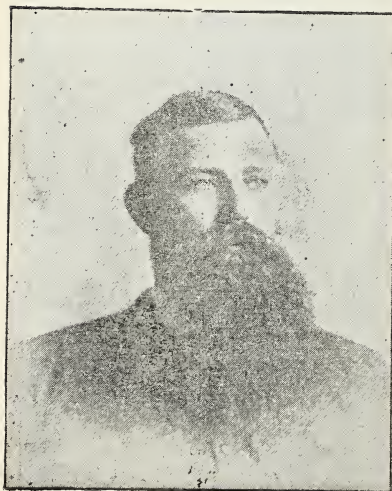
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## THE DESERTED ISLE.

Like mournful echo, from the silent tomb,  
 That pines away upon the midnight air,  
 Whilst the pale moon breaks out, with fitful gloom ;  
 Fond memory turns with sad, but welcome care,  
 To scenes of desolation and despair ;  
 Once bright with all that beauty could bestow,  
 That peace could shed, or youthful fancy know.

To the fair isle, reverts the pleasing dream ;  
 Again thou risest, in thy green attire,  
 Fresh, as at first, thy blooming graces seem ;—  
 Thy groves, thy fields, their wonted sweets respire ;  
 Again thou'rt all my heart could e'er desire.  
 Oh ! Why, dear isle, art thou not still my own ?  
 Thy charms could then for all my griefs atone.

The stranger that descends Ohio's stream,  
 Charmed with the beauteous prospects that arise,  
 Marks the soft isles that, 'neath the glittering beam,  
 Dance with the wave and mingle with the skies ;  
 Sees, also, one that now in ruin lies,  
 Which erst, like fairy queen, towered o'er the rest,  
 In every native charm, by culture dressed.

There rose the seat, where once, in pride of life,  
 My eye could mark the queenly river's flow,  
 In summer's calmness, or in winter's strife,  
 Swollen with rains, or battling with the snow.  
 Never, again, my heart such joy shall know.  
 Havoc, and ruin, rampant war, have passed  
 Over that isle, with their destroying blast.

The black'ning fire has swept throughout her halls,  
 The winds fly whistling o'er them, and the wave  
 No more, in spring-floods, o'er the sand beach crawls,  
 But furious drowns in one o'erwhelming grave,  
 Thy hallow'd haunts it watered as a slave.  
 Drive on, destructive flood ! and ne'er again,  
 On that devoted isle let man remain.

Too many blissful moments there I've known ;  
 Too many hopes have there met their decay ;  
 Too many feelings now forever gone,  
 To wish that thou could'st e'er again display  
 The joyful coloring of thy prime array :  
 Buried with thee, let them remain a blot.  
 With thee, their sweets, their bitterness forgot.



And, oh ! that I could wholly wipe away  
 The memory of the ills that worked thy fall ;  
 The memory of that all-eventful day,  
 When I returned, and found my own fair hall  
 Held by the infuriate populace in thrall ;—  
 My own fireside blockaded by a band  
 That once found food and shelter of my hand.

Idren ( oh ! a mother's pangs forbear ;  
 Nor str'ke again that arrow to my soul ; )  
 Clasp the ruffians in suppliant prayer ;  
 To free their mother from unjust control,  
 While with false crimes and imprecations foul,  
 The wretched, vilest refuse of the earth,  
 Mock jurisdiction held around my hearth.

Sweet isle ! methinks I see thy bosom torn ;  
 Again behold the ruthless rabble throng,  
 That wrought destruction taste must ever mourn.  
 Alas ! I see thee now—shall see thee long ;  
 But ne'er shall bitter feelings urge the wrong,  
 That to a mob, would give the censure, due  
 To those that arm'd the plunder-greedy crew.

Thy shores are warm'd by bounteous suns in vain,  
 Columbia !—if spite and envy spring,  
 To blot the beauty of mild natures reign :  
 The European stranger, who would fling,  
 O'er tangled woods, refinement's polishing,  
 May find, expended every plan of taste,  
 His works by ruffians rendered doubly waste.

After a brief stay the family embarked for Bath, England, to reside with his maiden sister at Cottage Crescent. Thence for health, they went to St. Aubin, on the Isle of Jersey, to be with his sister Avis. Thence they removed to Port Prerie, upon the Island of Guernsey, where Feb. 1, 1831, on the bosom of his devoted Margaret, whom thirty-four years before he had married, he passed away, within requiem murmur of the never ceasing waves.

In 1842, his widow visited the United States to seek relief from the government, which had prosecuted relentlessly and almost inexcusably despoiled. She asked damages for acts of the Virginia militia, in a statement made out by Dudley & Woodbridge, who well could estimate its extent.

She also petitioned for relief sought, in the following words :

“Your memorialist does not desire to exaggerate the conduct of the said armed men, or the injuries done by them ; but she can truly say, that before their visit the residence of her family had been noted for its elegance and high state of improvement, and that they left it in a state of comparative ruin and waste ; and as instance of the mischievous and destructive spirit which appeared to govern them, she would mention that while they occupied as a guard-room one of the best apartments in the house, (the building of which had cost nearly forty thousand dollars,) a musket or rifle ball was deliberately fired into the ceiling, by which it was much defaced and injured ; and that they wantonly destroyed many pieces of valuable furniture. She would also state, that being apparently under no subordination, they indulged in continual drunkenness and riot, offering many indignities to your memorialist, and treating her domestics with violence.

Your memorialist further represents, that these outrages were committed upon an unoffending and defenceless family in the absence of their natural protector ; your memorialists’ husband being then away from home ; and that in answer to such remonstrances as she ventured to make against the consumption, waste, and destruction of his property, she was told by those who assumed to have the command, that they held the property for the United States, by order of the President, and were privileged to use it, and should use it, as they pleased. It is with pain that your memorialist reverts to events, which, in their consequences, have reduced a once happy family from affluence and comfort, to comparative want and wretchedness ; which blighted the prospect of her children, and made herself, in the decline of life, a wanderer on the face of the earth.”

With this petition, was filed also the following :

“On the 13th day of December 1806 the boat in which we were, was driven ashore, by ice and wind, on Backus’ Island, about one mile below Mr. Blennerhassett’s house ; we landed in the forenoon, and the wind continuing unfavorable, did not afford us any opportunity of putting off until after three o’clock in the evening, at which time we were attacked by about 25 men, well armed, who rushed upon us suddenly, and we, not being in a situation to resist the fury of a mob, surrendered ; a strong guard was placed in the boat, to prevent, we presume, those persons of

our party who remained in the boat, from going off with her, while we were taken to the house of Mr. Blennerhassett. On our arrival at the house we found it filled with militia; another party of them were engaged in making fires, around the house, of rails dragged from the fences of Mr. Blennerhassett. At this time Mrs. Blennerhassett was from home. When she returned, about an hour after, she remonstrated against this outrage on the property, but without effect; the officers declared that while they were on the island, the property absolutely belonged to them. We were informed, by themselves, that their force consisted of forty men the first night; and on the third day it was increased to eighty. The officers were constantly issuing the whiskey and meat, which had been laid up for the use of the family; and whenever any complaint was made by the friends of Mrs. Blennerhassett, they invariably asserted that everything on the farm was their own property. There appeared to us to be no kind of subordination among the men; the large room they occupied on the first floor presented a continued scene of riot and drunkenness; the furniture appeared ruined by the bayonets, and one of the men fired his gun against the ceiling; the ball made a large hole, which completely spoiled the beauty of the room. They insisted that the servants should wait upon them, before attending to their mistress; when this was refused, they seized upon the kitchen, and drove the negroes into the wash house. We were detained from Saturday evening until Tuesday morning; during which time there were never less than thirty, and frequently from seventy to eighty men living in this riotous manner entirely on provisions of Mrs. Blennerhassett. When we left the island, a cornfield near the house, in which the corn was still remaining, was filled with cattle, the fences having been pulled down to make fires. This we pledge ourselves to be a true statement of those transactions, as impression was made on us at the time.

MORGAN NEVILLE,  
WM. ROBINSON, JR.

Henry Clay, with sincerity and ardor, urged its passage before the proper committee, but while pending therein, she died, worn out and mortified with toil and privation, attended only by her son Harman, and Mary, a black servant, who, her former slave, would not desert her even in the depths. This negress remained faithful with Harman, the son, till his death, and subsequently was burned to death.



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Mrs. Blennerhassett was a member of the Episcopal church, and buried by their beautiful ritual, in the family vault of Thomas Addis Emmett, the friend of other days. At the funeral were both Robert Emmett, the father and his son. Watched during her illness by her devoted Harman, and the faithful Mary, she sank peacefully to rest. The "Marble Cemetery" of repose is a small, plain enclosure on Second street in New York, with no shrubbery or flowers, but strewn with vaults, amid the rush of a busy world around.

Of their children, it may be said :

1. Dominick, born in 1799, the eldest son, was dissipated. In 1822 he sailed for Savannah ; in 1823 he enlisted as surgeon-mate, drank heavily and was discharged. In New York he turned up destitute, and by intervention of friends of his father, was made assistant apothecary in a hospital. Subsequently he lost his position, and went to St. Louis, Mo.

2. Harman, Jr., born in 1801, was an invalid, became a portrait painter, succeeded poorly, and was eventually taken to the alms house on Blackwell's island, 10 Nov., 1854, and there in his illness was attended by the family servant and the ladies of the "Old Brewery Mission." He died 18th August of that year, and was buried beside his mother.

3. Joseph Lewis, the youngest, moved to Missouri, where he married and practiced law, in Troy, Lincoln county ; was an officer in the Confederacy, and died soon after the close of the war, and left descendants in St. Louis.

The other children, daughters, died with fever in Mississippi.

Theodosia Alston, the fascinating child of the gifted conspirator, with her maid and physician, Dec. 30, 1812, set sail from Charleston, on the Carolina coast, in a small schooner, the "Patriot," to go to her father in New York. The vessel was noted for her sailing qualities, was commanded by an experienced captain, had a pilot of skill and courage, and was expected to make the voyage within six days.

Neither vessel, crew or passengers were ever heard of afterwards, and their fate is still locked up in the arcana of the great ocean. Burr, who idolized his daughter, as she did him, ever after the sad event declared himself "severed from the human race."

The mansion and premises passed into the hands of a Kentucky creditor, who began the culture of hemp and manufacture of cordage thereon. In those days it was a profitable industry all along the water courses. The wings of the dwelling were the places of its storage and caused the destruction of the already wrecked castle of buried hopes and dreams of empire. The servants returned one night from a merry making, or frolic on the adjacent shore, and in the river crossing their skiff was upset, and one of their number was drowned, and the rest submerged. On hastening to the cellar for brandy to restore the unfortunate and drive the chill from themselves, they passed through the entrance to the hemp room to which the stair-way led, too near the hemp, and the flare of the candle ignited the fibres, and the flames almost instantly were beyond control, and in less than an hour only ashes and debris remained of the once lovely mansion of the Barrister prince. In night's darkness, dazed with the effects of their carelessness, the servants neglected to awaken the sleepers in the main rooms, who would have perished had not one accidentally awakened in time to alarm the others. Their escape was made with no robes but their thin night dress, and a few articles of furniture only were saved.

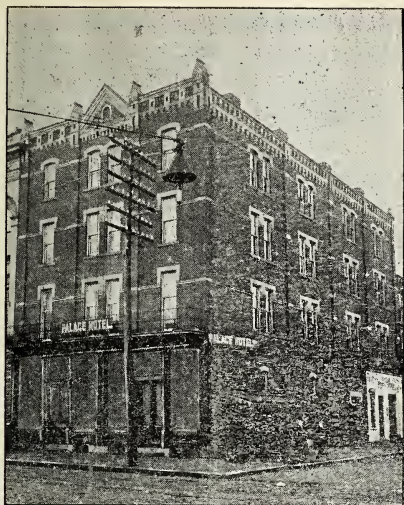
To-day there is little to remind the curious visitor of the happiness and splendor of eighty years ago.

\* "The Ohio and Virginia hills, the beautiful river, and the blue sky are the only things which look in the least as they must have looked to the original inhabitants."

Before leaving the island with the flotilla Blennerhassett had rented to Col. Nathaniel Cushing, a friend in Belpre, the entire estate, crops, cattle, and agricultural utensils. He kept possession for two years, and it was then by creditors suits, taken out of his hands by the courts, and furniture and library under an attachment sold at auction for bills endorsed by him for Burr.

Joseph S. Lewis, of Philadelphia, a merchant, owned the island after the failure—purchasing it in Sept. 1817—and destruction of the house and property. It passed into the hands of George Neale Sr. and is now possessed by his daughter Alice and son-in-law Amos W. Gordon. It is a pleasure resort during the summer season. The old well is still in use, and some locust and other

\* Maria P. Woodbridge in Magazine article.



# PALACE HOTEL.

—0—

W. F. POE, Mgr.

—0—

Best House in the State  
for the Money.

—0—

PARKERSBURG,  
West Virginia.

General Fire and Accident Insurance Agent,

529½ MARKET STREET, .

Parkersburg, W. Va.



A. H. CUTRIGHT.



# REPS & COMPANY,

NO. 121 THIRD STREET.

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This Old Reliable Installment House will  
furnish your house from cellar to garret  
on easy payments.

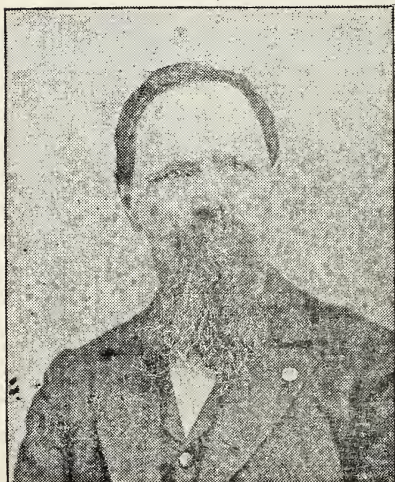
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FOR CASH they will sell you more and better goods for the money  
than any other house in Parkersburg.

Put this in your note book—Its so.

---

## WILLIAM KIRK,



### LUMBER MANUFACTURER,

MILLS ON SOUTH SIDE

---

Oak Bill Timber,  
Popular Lumber.

---

TELEPHONE 371.

---

Building Material of  
all Kinds, Ship Build-  
ers Timber....

---

Oak Finish, Moulding, Etc.

trees said to have been planted by Blennerhassett himself, overshadow its moss-covered edges and its crystal waters that drop from the old oaken bucket. The caps of the stone gateway are shown in the steps of the present dwelling.

## Prior Occupation.

---

### PRE-HISTORIC AND INDIAN RELICS.

This romantic spot in American history was one of the camping, and also burial grounds of the red man. It was certainly a hiding shelter for his canoes when on the war path. Behind have been left, brought to light by the abrasion of the Ohio's current, evidences of even pre-historic occupancy, as well as many relics that are plainly Indian in their origin and use. Arrow-heads, stone pipes, necklets, darts and numerous pieces of pottery have been secured, arranged and made to advance an ingenious theory of Prof. Henry Stahl, who has spent years of research and study, in this attractive field to prove that civilization has left evidences of its progress in the sands of the rivers, the mounds of higher levels, and the charred deposits of Indian camps everywhere.

The island, which is of glacial origin, extends east and west, is narrow in the middle and broad at both extremities. From the upper end a ridge of land begins and runs west about the center of the tract for over a mile. On both sides of this slight elevation are natural troughs, like abandoned canal beds, with ridged banks higher than those bordering the river on either side. The channel bed on the north side of the western section of the island has been cut away by the current, leaving the ridge to become the river bank. Here, near the center of the island, seems to have been placed by nature, or design of some prior race, a large shell heap. The deposit is over 1100 feet long, in width at upper end about 3, and at lower 300 feet. The shells are of the Unio. Amid these, as exposed by the water abrasion or ploughing, or research, are found in great numbers, pottery whole and broken, chert-chips, bones of the deer and fragments of human skeletons, and a variety of stone implements. The shells of the land tortoise are quite numerous. In places ash-pits and gravel and clay are apparent. One of the skulls taken from the bank is now in the Smithsonian at Washington. The pottery, much of

it beautiful and elegant in design, and displaying a wonderful and surpassing originality, is of clay mixed with broken shells from the river. Porphyry implements highly polished were found, probably bark-peelers. Pipes, circular stones, and arrow-heads of fifteen different varieties were obtained by the thousand. The latter composed of grey, brown and black chert, chalcedony and horn-stone. "As implements of attack are abundant it is probable they were fastened to arrows and used in shooting fish." Jasper drills also were numerous. Instead of having been used to bore in stone, it is likely they were used to spear fish or in the chase and as hairpins—since the early tribes were careful of their long crownal locks. Tips of the horn of the deer, pendants and many other ornaments of beautiful workmanship of cannal coal, beads from bird bones, greenstone polished hatchets, circular discs, grooved stone hatchets, bark peelers, bone needles, and bone fish hooks, and cannel-coal eyelets, beads and copper bracelets, musical bone and stone flutes evidencing in their construction a taste for and knowledge of music, horn-hoe soil-diggers formed of the curved antlers of a stag, with bevelled sharp end, were among the numerous relics, some few of which were deposited in the Smithsonian Institute at the National Capital, but the rarest are in the Stahl collection.

The Archæological character of the Island is of great importance and the vast number of industrial implements, whole and fragmentary pottery, the evident remains of numerous ancient workshops, heaps of flint clippings, shell heaps, the great number of skeletons, together with bones of animals now extinct, as well as an abundance of the animal group surrounding the various tribes and people who dwell upon the same, show beyond a question that the island had been inhabited permanently for many centuries, ere the white man's arrival.

Many artifices found show great age, far beyond that of the roving Indians who, ever since the boundary line they so much desired to preserve, to wit all territory west of the Ohio, was encroached upon, built no mounds, and for probably 200 years all their dead were intrusives in the mounds built years before their arrival.

Hence the abrasion of currents of the spring flood brings to light the magnificent pottery and workmanship of the race who built the original mounds, as well as the "good enough" crude

stone and bone relics of the Indian who last occupied this strategic point, when the game in abundance was forced to seek the water, and no enemy could appear without approaching under many disadvantages in fleets of canoes, which owing to the favorable posts of observation were never able to surprise the islanders.

The range of the astonishing amount of relics recovered, the great difference in the artistic development of domestic implements show that primitive man began here early and the many mute witnesses of man's earliest attempts to supply himself with defensive and aggressive arms, demonstrate that the human family, step by step, produced the same result as the early races on the Nile, proving that if this country was ever settled by European or Asiatic tribes the arrival upon the Western Continent took place in the earliest stage of industrial development when even language was in its infancy.

We are pleased to offer our readers a series of illustrations showing specimens from the Island, collected and ingeniously arranged by our talented friend, Prof. Henry Stahl of Parkersburg, who has divided thousands of specimens into the following four divisions :

1. Man in his earliest stage ;
2. Man as a Savage ;
3. Man as a Barbarian ;
4. Man's first steps into civilization.

The articles found are classed into these four respective social stages, showing a continuous development from the first article fashioned by the hand of man down to the appearance of iron and steel.

From many of these ingeniously arranged and systemized groups, a few only have been selected, and from reduced photographs, made by the artists, Korb & Craig, in Parkersburg, six half-tone engravings are presented. Few, if any richer field for research and study of the prior races, can be found than Blennerhassett island, so pregnant with memories of vanished years.

In the Stahl valuable relic collection is a sun-dial plate, found at the bottom of the old well of Blennerhassett. It is of dark purple slate, octagonal in shape, about half inch thick and 10 inches across. The face has its characters and lettering distinct,



was made by J. Still whose name is cut in script upon the outer edge. The inscription is "G. Neil, 1812, latitude 54°, 20 north.

There was found in the Blennerhassett Mansion, in 1806, several drawings, which were preserved as late as 1846 in the family of a descendant of Commandant Hugh Phelps. Among these was one of the head of a huge Elk, designated "An Early Settler." Also in oil, several Indian heads, the work, doubtless, of Lady Blennerhassett, and supposed to have been in portraiture of friendly Indians of prominence who frequented the Barrister's grounds at that peace period. No one has been able, as yet, to identify or name the originals from whom taken. Copies of these are now preserved in an album by J. H. Diss Debar, ex-Commissioner of Emigration for West Va., long a citizen of this county, but of late years resident in Philadelphia. Three of these portraits on one canvass, cheek to jowl, indicate determined character, and if one was not in portraiture of the famed chief governing the river section, Kyashuta, who it is presumed was personally known to the island owners, in 1800, then no likeness of that hero who gave Washington a Buffalo and so courteously treated him at Belleville in 1770, is extant.

## Present Occupation.

It is more than probable that the race usually called, for want of a better name, Mound-builders, were the first occupants of the island, it may have been thousands of years ago. Their presence on its wave-washed sand is proved beyond question. By conquest or an abandonment the Indian succeeded, and enjoyed its beauty and isolation from inimical intrusion, for many un-numbered moons and cycles. In the march of events the coming of the paler-tinted man drove him from the hunting grounds and the bark and pelt tented villages to the Northwest and eventually toward the setting sun, and the absolute extermination that awaits the last of his race.

## RECORDED OWNERSHIP.

The island appears, from official records, to have been claimed and the right, whether by military land warrant, hatchet title, or otherwise, undisputed, by Samuel McDowell, who assigns to John Harvie, and he to Henry Banks, who assigns to James Heron of Richmond, in trust, for the firm of Heron, Nelson & Co.

The gifted Patrick Henry signs the deed. They on 10 May 1792, convey for 250 pounds Virginia currency to Elijah Backus of Norwich, Conn., 269 and 297, equal 566 acres, by survey made 17 May 1784. (Page 97 B 7 of Wood County records.)

Backus 28 Jan. 1799, contracts to sell to Herman Blennerhassett, for \$4,000, the upper section of the island, thus described: East and South bounded by waters of the Ohio, then by a line drawn across said island, at the "Narrows," as by Peregrine Foster and Silas Bent in their respective surveys for said Backus and Blennerhassett, made about March 1798.

The property, after years, passes into hands of George Neale, Jr., but not till 17 Nov. 1827 does he acquire full title, by deed from Hannah George, (formerly Richards,) late Hannah Backus, of Montgomery county, Ohio, relicit of Elijah Backus late of Randolph Co., in the then territory of Illinois, deceased, conveying for \$300 her dower in the east end of the Island. (Deed book 7, page 128.)

By the first county assessment, in 1801, Elijah Backus, then owner, was charged with tax of \$5.22 on 370 acres, at a valuation of \$1,100. He was also assessed with 228½ acres, the "upper part of Belpre Island," \$3.30.

In Deed Book 4, page 3, is recorded conveyance from Elijah Backus, and wife Hannah, to Aaron Waldo Putnam, dated 24 April 1807, for two tracts of land on the two islands below the mouth of the Kenawha, for the consideration of \$1,903.50. It is thus described: Survey by Levi Barber of 141 acres in West or lower end of the first island; on East by lands sold by Backus to Harman Blennerhassett, beginning at a place called the "Narrows," and the other tract the whole of the island called "little Island, or second isle South," being part of two tracts of land conveyed to Backus by James Heron of Richmond, Virginia, 10 May 1792, by that Court in that year.

In 1816 the assessment books show that Aaron Waldo Putnam owned the 141 2-10 acres, "lower part of Belpre island."

In 1820 appears 150 acres, part of Blennerhassett Island, "two miles S. W. from the Court House, asses ed to Thomas Morris and Samuel Canby of Baltimore," formerly charged to Elijah Backus. So the earliest name of the middle appears to be "Backus" as stated upon old river navigation charts, and next

"Bell-pre" from its facing that stockade-protected settlement,—the colony there from Fort Harmar—and that the easterly and formerly the whole took the present name from the momentous events of later history.

Mrs. Amos W. Gordon and son Clifford now own the upper end or old Blennerhassett portion, of 105 acres, deriving her title from her father George Neale Jr. They reside thereon and cultivate the acreage, and the public resort to it from curiosity, by picnic excursions, and for base-ball games, coming by the steam launch "Enola," or by skiffs, sail-boats and the great steamers of the Ohio. It is an attractive spot to travellers, who pass the island up or down by palatial electric-lighted steamers, or view it from comfortable railroad coaches on the Virginia shore, and who are ever desirous to have pointed out the site of the vanished mansion, which like a gem, peeped nearly a century ago, from its primitive and weird water-encircled setting in the wilderness. Some one in the centuries yet to come may have the means and sentimental inclination to restore the once hospitable edifice and its once beautiful dream like surroundings.

The upper tract of 28 acres is assessed in the name of Alice M. A. Gordon, and is rated for taxation purposes at \$78.57 per acre.

Value of land \$1,400; buildings \$800; total \$2,200. State tax for general purposes \$5.50; school \$2.20; total \$7.70; county: general levy; \$11.00; roads \$9.90; teachers \$8.80; buildings \$6.60; total \$36.30; entire tax \$44.00.

The second Gordon tract, is assessed in name of Mrs. Alice M. A. Gordon in 76.95 acres, valued per acre at \$49.94. Valuation of land \$3,825. State tax: general purposes \$9.56; school \$3.83, total \$13.39. County tax: general levy \$19.13; roads \$17.21; teachers \$15.30; buildings \$11.47; total \$63.11; entire total \$76.50. Yearly tax upon the Blennerhassett-Gordon tracts, \$120.50.

The next tract is assessed as the estate of Samuel Logan, and is owned by Mrs. Minnie Miller, has 87.9 acres, valued per acre at \$59.19, value of land \$4,350; buildings \$800, total \$5,150. State tax: general purposes, \$12.87; free schools, \$5.15; total, \$18.02. County tax: general levy, \$25.75; roads, \$23.18; teachers, \$20.60; buildings, \$15.45; total, \$84.98; entire tax, \$93.00.

Upon this portion for 53 years the family of Col. John M. Johnson have resided in the only brick house upon the island, which was built in 1833, with clay taken from near the stone foundation. It has ten rooms, and was for a decade the residence of George Neal, jr.

The third tract, assessed as the estate of Albert Logan, contains 120 acres, and is tenanted by Ramsay Brothers. It has upon it a two-story frame dwelling of seven rooms, built about a quarter of a century ago. Till its construction then, the old log cabin, now a century in age, was occupied as a residence. This hewed log cabin is of black walnut, erected from trees grown on the island, and is now used for storage of agricultural implements, and preserved for its antiquity and associations. It was once the dwelling of Elijah Backus. There is also an old style barn on the premises. This is the tract upon which most of the Indian burial ground lies, called the Narrows, and is opposite the site on the Ohio side of Farmers' Castle, an early Indian defence, which faced the river and enclosed two acres, with cabins, in which were sheltered part of the brave pioneers who came to the mouth of the Muskingum and landed under the guns of Fort Harmar a half decade before Blennerhassett began his palace abode.

Value of land, \$6,000; buildings, \$800; tax of State: general purposes, \$17.00; school, \$6.80; total state tax, \$23.80; county tax: general levy, \$34.00; roads, \$30.60; teachers, \$27.20; building, \$20.40; total county tax, \$112.20.

The lower portion of the main islands is in two tracts, owned by the heirs of James W. Drain, of Gravel Bank, Ohio. The combined acreage is 140 6-10, rated at an average value of \$52.56 per acre; value of land and buildings, \$7,500. State tax: general, \$18.75; school, \$7.50; total, \$26.25. County tax: general levy, \$37.40; roads, \$33.75; teachers, \$31.00; building, \$22.50; total, \$124.65; entire tax yearly, \$150.50.

The dwelling, built by George Harwood, is tenanted by Duncan Turner, and is a two-story 8 room frame, facing the Ohio shore. There are several small houses and corn-cribs, including an immense barn. This is the highest point upon the islands, but the flood of 1884 was seven feet deep upon it. Attached to this tract is a deposit, called "Four Acres" which now surveys about 25 acres.

At the foot of the insular group is a small isle, usually called the "tow-head," of 22 acres at low water, but at high stage is re-



duced to about six timbered acres, increasing yearly in height and surface. For taxation the value per acre is put at 90 cents; tax for state, 7c; county, 33c; total, 40 cents. It was entered by Stephen C. Shaw, and is now the property of Albert K. Leonard, of Parkersburg.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

From various sources gathered, the following items may have a local interest:

Blennerhassett got \$6,000 for one-half the profits of his Marietta business, had \$3,000 stock in the firm, had \$6,000 in the hands of his Philadelphia agent. After building his mansion he had, outside of island property, five negroes and \$1,700 cash. He had \$9,000 in stock and profits, and \$10,000 on another account, and the amount in agents' hands, besides isle and negroes; property left by his father amounted to 20,000 pounds, equal to \$100,000, vested in British 3 per cent. stock.

He gave power of attorney, 27 Nov., 1806, to Samuel Hunt, of Gallia county, Ohio, and James Wilson, of Wood, to settle the firm affairs of Dudley Woodbridge, Jr., & Co. The firm began to operate 24 April, 1802. The records disclose that some of the men most active in the destruction of the home and property of the Blennerhassett member were those indebted to him financially, some of whom he had for years indulged and befriended and confided in. They were the first to believe him guilty and credit him with unpatriotic intentions and acts.

He had a store earlier than this of his own, as appears from the record of suits in Wood county. In October, 1800, he filed an account as follows:

SYLVESTER LYONS,

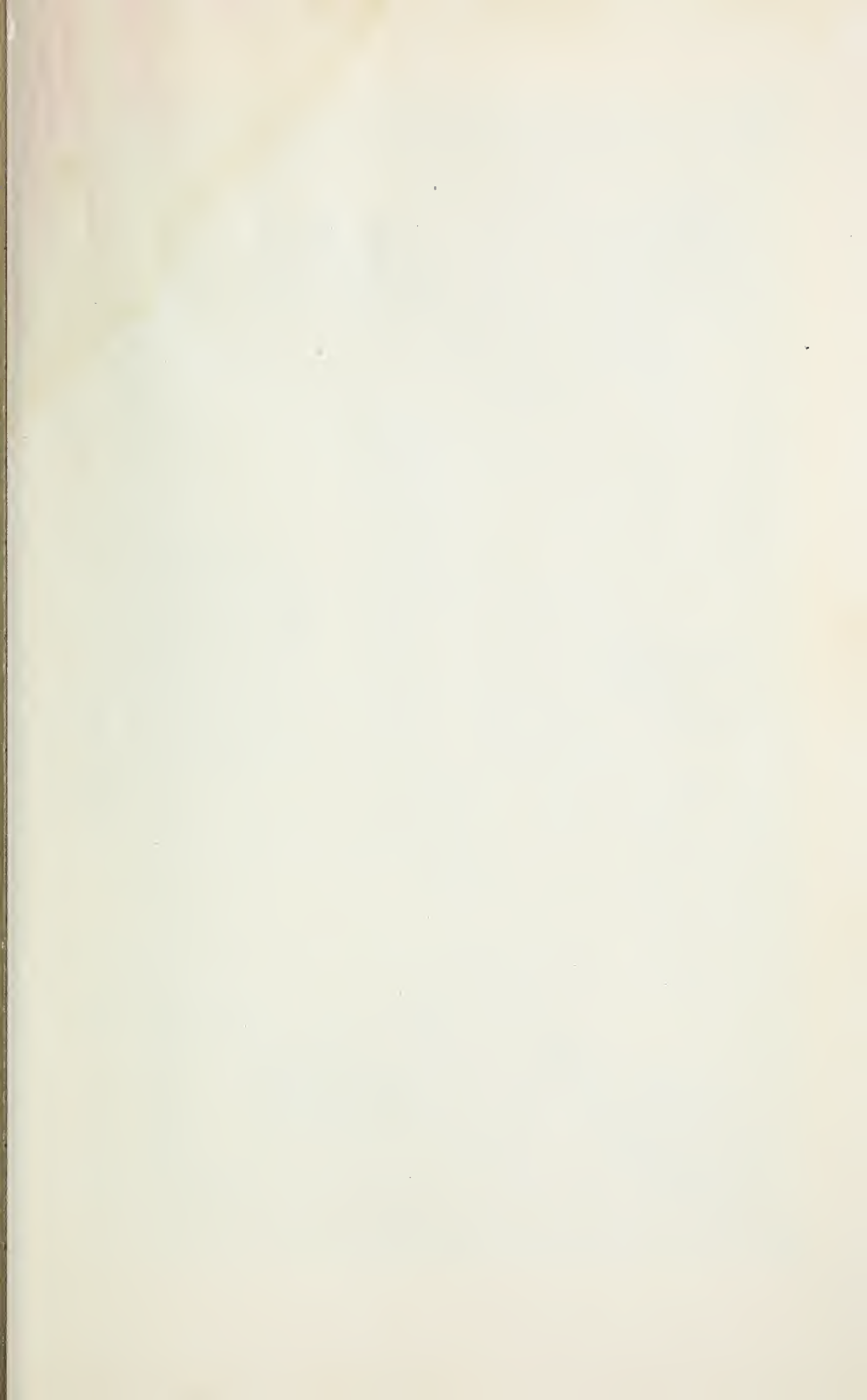
TO HERMAN BLANNERHASSETT, DR.

1798.

May 8th.	To 6½ of lining @ 75c.....	\$4 87
	To ½ gallon whiskey @ 50c.....	50
May 24.	To 1 qt whiskey @ 25c.....	25
Aug. 29.	To ½ lb Bohea tea @ 55c; }	
	1 lb raisons @ 33c. }	88

1799.

April 13.	To sundries, delivered to John	
	James as per order.....	10 85
April 19.	To fish hooks .....	33
" "	" 1b chocolate.....	52
" "	" 180 bushels of corn.....	59 61



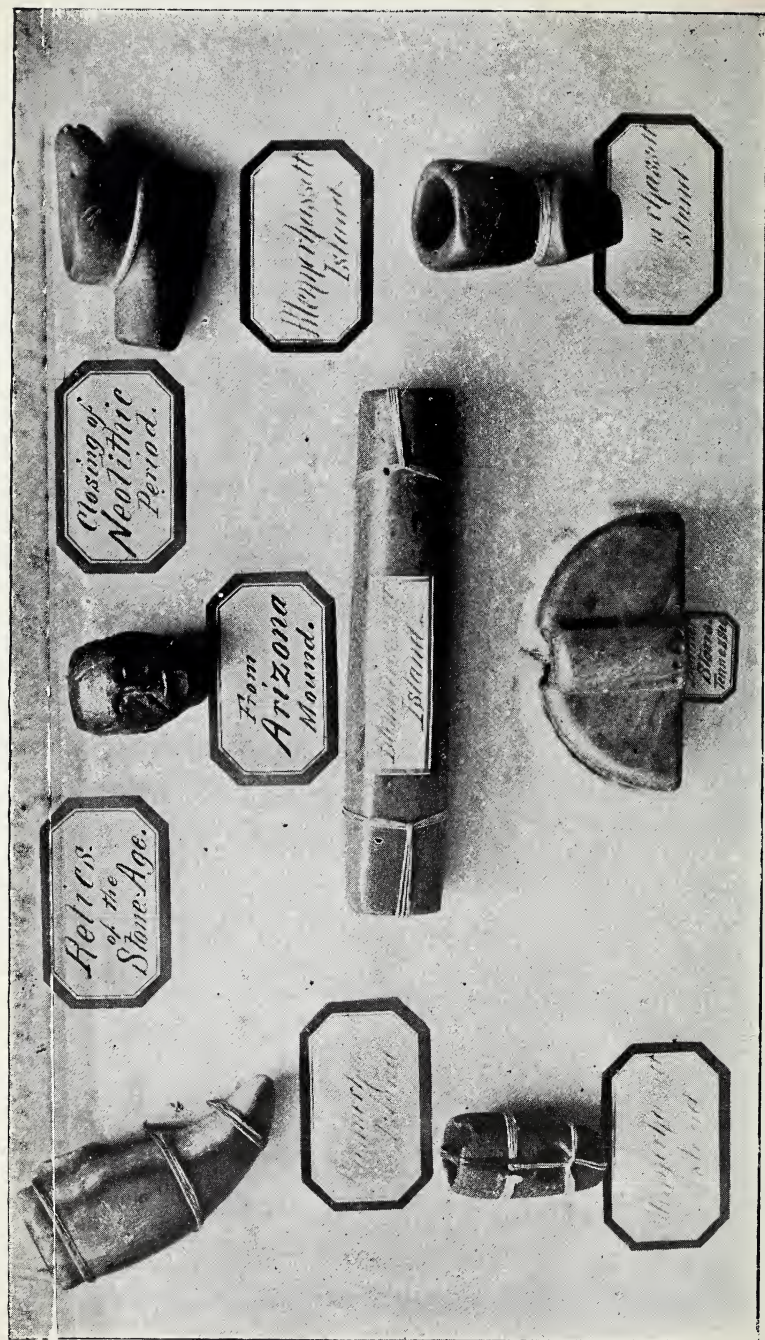


Photo by Artists Korb and Craig

## Musical Flute and Carved Pipes.

This account amounted to over a hundred dollars, and was tried by a jury on the 10th day of March, 1801, and a verdict rendered in behalf of the plaintiff.

In the county court Feb. 2, 1807, in case of George Creel against Herman Blennerhassett, the entry reads: "On an attachment, the sheriff having returned "executed on one negro man named Ransom Reed," and the defendant fails to reply, it is therefore considered by the court that the plaintiff recover against the defendant \$35.25 for his debt; also his costs in this behalf expended, and that the sheriff expose to sale the property aforesaid and render unto the said plaintiff his debt aforesaid, on the first Monday in April term next.

Ransom who was long the faithful waiter upon Mrs. Blennerhassett, and became the property of James M. Stephenson, an indulgent master, was a swarthy, dwarfish negro, a good fiddler, and a favorite with the youngsters of the vicinity, and many were the Virginia reels under his music and instruction, and when tired of the dance, the young listened to his wonderful stories of the stately queen now far away from her own isle of sorrow.

April 6, 1807, three commissioners were appointed to appraise the property in the hands of Sheriff Hugh Phelps, seized as that of Aaron Burr.

The sale bill of the Blennerhassett property, Aug. 24, 1807, in case of Robert Miller against said defendant showed:

Accounts and notes, 34 in No. ....	\$140 88
Stock, farm utensils, &c. ....	850 34½
Total .....	<hr/> \$991 22½

Which property the court ordered to be returned to Blennerhassett, or the value thereof, on surrender by Nathaniel Cushing of the island rented by him, and he is directed to deliver up all at the expiration to Robert Miller or his attorney.

The entry 5 Nov., 1810, is:

Ichabod Griffin having heretofore been appointed to collect and deposit in the Bank of Marietta the money arising from the sales of certain property of Aaron Burr, and which was then in controversy between Robert Miller and the United States, but which has since terminated in favor of the United States; it is there-



fore ordered that the said Ichabod Griffin pay the money by him received as aforesaid to the Secretary of War, or to John G. Jackson, agent for the United States, or to his order.

The Monthly Court, 4 Feb., 1811, with Geo. D. Avery, Richard Neale, Bennett Cook and Robert Edelen, general justices, on the bench,

George Miller,

vs.

Herman Bennerhassett and Robert Miller.—In Chancery.

Ordered, that Robert Miller be inhibited from paying, delivering, or secreting any goods or chattels in his possession belonging to Harman Blennerhassett, &c.

The county court, 6 April, 1807, appointed Peter Anderson, William Weedon and Samuel Weld to appraise property seized by Col. Hugh Phelps, as the property of Aaron Burr. They made return schedules 11 April, 1807, of 25 barrels of whiskey—756 gallons—at an average value of 31 cents per gallon, \$273.41; 11 bbls. pork, \$361.41; 5 bbls. beef, \$30.00; other sundries, including two boats, (\$60.25), making a total of \$1,056.38½. These articles were for the expedition from the island to the South.

#### SEIZURE OF FOUR BOATS BY BUELL.

MARIETTA, 2 Feb. 1807.

I certify that the four unfinished batteaux, late the property of Harman Blennerhassett, began to be built by Col. Jos. Barker, were seized by authority of the State of Ohio, by special warrant from the Governor's agent, and a return thereof has been regularly made to the Secretary of War and to the Governor of the State of Ohio.

JOSEPH BUELL, Maj. Gen.,  
3d Division Mil., State Ohio.

John Clark, sheriff of the county of Washington, Ohio, makes the following return:

"I do hereby certify that on the 20th day of Feb., 1807, I served a writ of foreign attachment on Dudley Woodbridge, as garnishee of Harman Blennerhassett, attaching all lands, tenements, goods, rights and credits, moneys and effects which the said Blennerhassett might have in his, the said Woodbridge's hands or possession."

NOT THE LARGEST BUT THE BEST.

---



Watts  
Dry Goods  
Co.

IS WHERE YOU CAN FIND

## NOVELTY DRESS GOODS

In Exclusive Designs and Patterns  
In all the Latest Combinations and Colorings.

---

Black Dress Goods in all the principal weaves noted for their Quality and Good Black.

We make a Specialty of Dress Linings, Findings and Trimmings of all kinds, as well as Muslin Underwear, Wash Goods of all kinds, Dress Skirts, Under Skirts, Notions, Paper Patterns, Silks for Waists, Silk for Dresses, Silks for Linings, Ribbons, Table Linens, Corsets, Hosiery, and at all times the Newest Things in Fancy Dry Goods at the Lowest Cash Prices consistent with honest dealing.

COME AND SEE US AT

527 MARKET STREET, PARKERSBURG, WEST VA.

**Watts Dry Goods Co.**

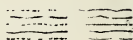
*W. G. Franklin,*

## Sanitary Plumber, Steam and Gas Fitter.

116 Third Street, Parkersburg, West Va.

PHONE 465.

In the old Second National Bank Building.



We are headquarters for and have constantly in stock, or can supply on short notice---

Enameled and Copper Bath Tubs,  
Marble, Granite and Enameled  
Lavatories,  
Tank, Syphon Jet, Lowdown and  
Hopper Water Closets,  
Chandeliers, Gas Heaters and the  
Best Gas Range made.

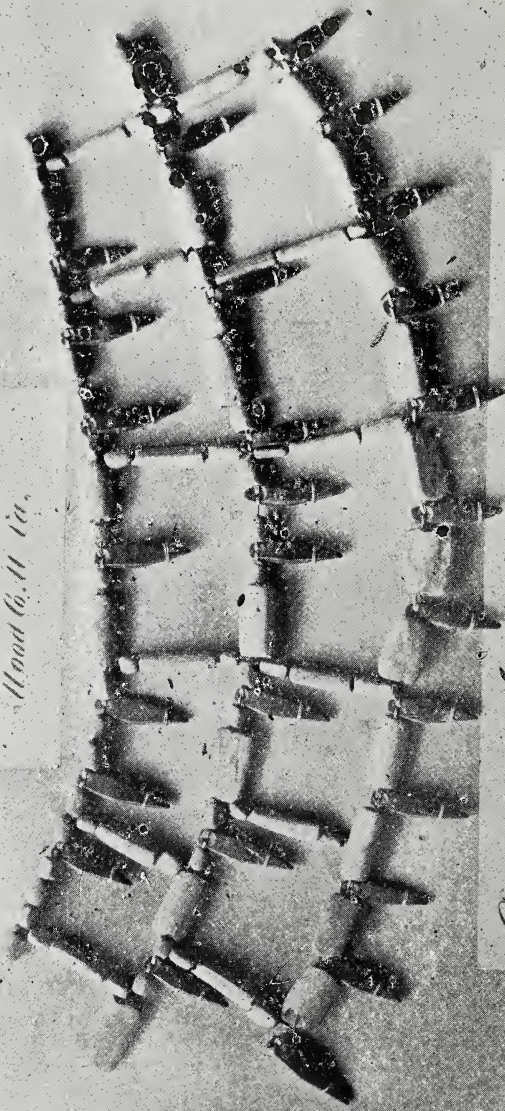
Garden Pumps,  
Pitcher Spout Pumps,  
Set Pumps and Force Pumps,  
Malleable and Galvanized Fittings,  
Brass Goods, Packing and Engineer  
and Saw Mill Supplies,  
Garden Hose and Hose Connections

We also carry a full line of Black and Galvanized Wrought Iron Pipe, and all sizes of Sewer Pipe, from 2 to 24 inch; also sewer fittings of all sizes and kinds. Estimates promptly furnished and satisfaction guaranteed. Give us a trial and we will endeavor to oblige.





*Necklace  
Blount Island  
Wood Co. W. Va.*



*Great care has been taken to preserve  
as near as possible, the original position  
of the beads as found with the skeleton.*


*Two rows, each protecting an ear, were also found.*

Among those who were upon the island when so much devastation occurred, were Major Robert Kincheloe, Matthias Chapman and Jacob Beeson, men of sterling worth and integrity, education and probity. The character of these citizens was such as in part to controvert insinuations so often made that the militia of the county were guilty of rudeness and incivility to the Blennerhassett hostess and family.

One of the pioneer natives of the county, now beyond four score years of age, Mrs. Clementine (Saunders) Neale, states that these officers of the command in later years, who were eye-witnesses of the event, assured her that so far from Mrs. Blennerhassett being insulted or rudely annoyed, as has been so repeatedly alleged, she was courteously addressed; that the Major asked an interview, and she came out from her room for a few minutes and treated him with much hauteur, and was herself answered with mildness, but firmly. The Major was a most kindly and genial gentleman, as were the others named, and incapable of any breaches in this regard.

There was a pier at the landing whence the flotilla embarked on that memorable December night, the steps to which were of stone, but till recently could not be located. For many years interested parties had been searching at times for these steps which led down to the stream and were known to exist somewhere upon the shores of the island. Lew Schaefer, during the summer of 1894, in wandering about the supposed vicinity, came upon a nicely dressed stone, one end of which protruded above the earth. Upon excavating he discovered the old stone steps, built nearly a century ago by the barrister-farmer, Blennerhassett. They are about 75 yards below the present landing, and appeared until recently to be yet firmly joined by the cement originally brought from the old country.

George Simms, of Hockingport, Ohio, has an old kettle which once belonged to Blennerhassett.

Israel Waldo Putnam, of Rockland, the vicinity of the site of Farmers' Castle, in Ohio, has an old settee given his grandmother by Mrs. Blennerhassett, after she left the island and for kindness bestowed on her by the grandfather and family. It is made of wild cherry, then abundant in the woods, is six feet long, three feet high and fifteen inches wide, with waved slats, thus, , three inches wide, of solid wood, and is highly prized. With it,

received in a similar way, he owns a small table of black walnut, native to the island farm. He has also two glass plates, with figures of leaves and vine, with gold leaf, given to his older sister. One of the plates is in the hands of Dr. Curtis, of Marietta. Descendant Putnam has also the old parchment deed executed and signed by Patrick Henry to Alexander Nelson, in trust for Nelson, Heron & Co., assignee of Henry Banks, dated 16 May, 1786, for 269 acres, by survey, dated 17 May, 1784, by virtue of Treasury Warrant No. 5,851, issued 5 July, 1780, for second island below mouth of Little Kenawha river, in the county of Monongalia." This description would indicate that the island is a combination, by gradual fills and freshets of several insular tracts.

George Alfred Townsend, the famous correspondent "Gath," owns a set of Blennerhassett, old style, blue back, split-bottomed chairs, bought of Miss Ellenwood.

There is still preserved in front of the tenement upon the island several blocks of dressed stone, which were portions of the pillars at each side of the landing. Nearby the original location of these shafts are tall sycamore trees, across the straight and almost limbless trunks of which are numerous slats nailed to serve as rests for wild duck-snares of the bird hunters. The bank has crumbled away from the "Narrows." There exists a huge sycamore tree still, which started from the cellar of the mansion soon after its destruction, and must be eighty-seven years old. The same well and a locust tree nearby will cause one to imagine the years of nine-tenths of a century to have been rolled backward, and Blennerhassett to be enjoying the cool waters of the one and the shade of the other as he leans slightly in his chair at evening or sultry noon, and meditates upon the loveliness of his island home and the quietude and inspiration of peace ere the spoiler came.

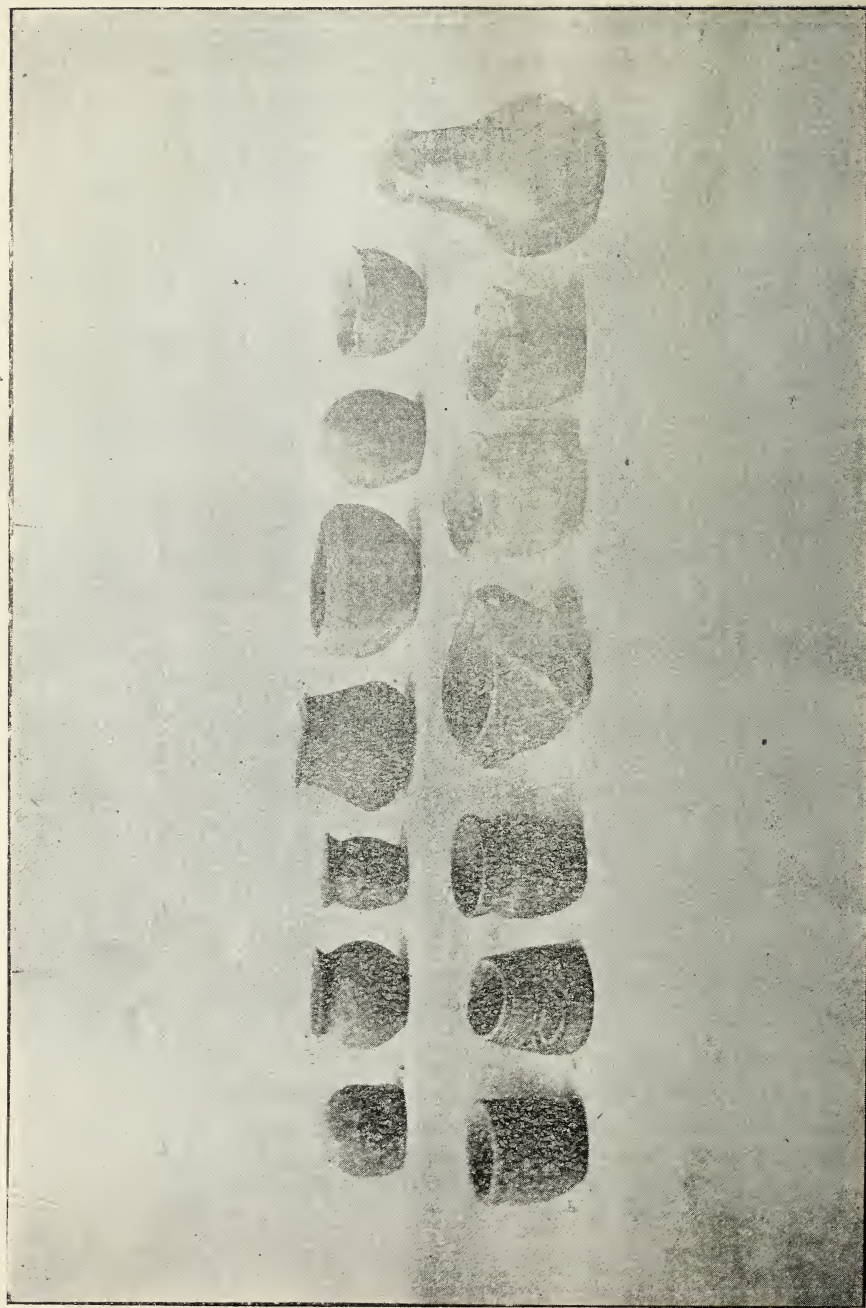
Quite a number of Blennerhassett relics and souvenirs are in the families of the citizens of Marietta. The college has some in the Fearing collection.

Dr. B. F. Harte has a sofa, once the property of D. C. Skinner; Miss Mary L. Skinner owns several handsome knife cases; Mrs. J. D. Cadwallader has a folding garden chair, which from Blennerhassett passed into possession of Dudley Woodbridge; Mrs. Frich, of Fifth street has a table; and the government order for









Mound Builders' Pottery from Blennerhassett Island

R. J. A. BOREMAN.

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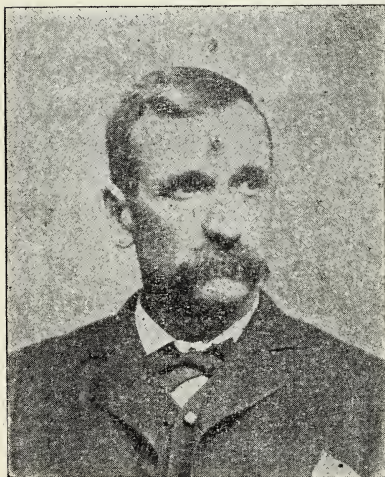
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the arrest of Blennerhassett belongs to Mrs. M. N. Buell, of Fifth street, Marietta.

In the relic room of the "Woman's Centennial Association" in Marietta, are :

1. A fruit dish, presented by Mrs. Goodno, of Belpre ;

2. A silk fan, given to Miss Rowena Spencer, of Vienna, who afterwards became Mrs. Arius Nye, by Lady Blennerhassett herself, afterwards the property of Mrs. Shelton Sturgis, of Chicago, then of her daughter, Mrs. E. H. Brush, of Chicago, who presented it to the relic room ;

3. A parlor chair, white and gilt, cane-seated, presented by Sarah (Norton or) Gaston, of Harmar ;

4. Part of some chintz bed-hangings, presented by Mrs. Mary Starr, of Marietta ;

5. An old iron tea-kettle, presented by Miss Ellenwood, of Belpre, O.

W. Park Andrews, as heir of the Mayberrys, has the following relics of the mansion : 2 large platters or waiters of sheet-iron ; 6 stem goblets of cut-class for wine ; 2 of smaller size ; 2 decanters ; one small, old-fashioned washstand, with hole in top for basin. The descendant of James G. Laidley—Alex. Thomas Laidley, of Charleston, West Virginia, till death owned a snuff box given by Blennerhassett to his friend, in 1805, before the conspiracy culminated. It now is stored by the State Historical Society. Amos Gordon has his dresser, to be seen in his home on the head of the island. He claims the old house was two stories and the wings two, but the circular approaches only one. The wine cellar portion alone was dug out.

The miniatures from which photos were copied and the engravings of the Blennerhassetts in this volume produced, were taken in Europe in 1795, ere debarkation for the new world of America. The Mississippi plantation to which the unfortunate barrister fled, when driven from his cherished island, in view of the shelter it afforded and promised, was called "La Cashe," the hiding place.

In May, 1895, a Spanish silver coin, bearing date 1772, was found near the spot where previously had been dug up a number of pieces of Indian pottery, which bore curiously carved figures thereon.



The old floating mill, which by action of the current ground the golden maize of the early settlers, was on the Virginia side, away from the present channel. The old miller, it is traditionally stated, was killed by the Indians and buried on the Ohio side of the river.

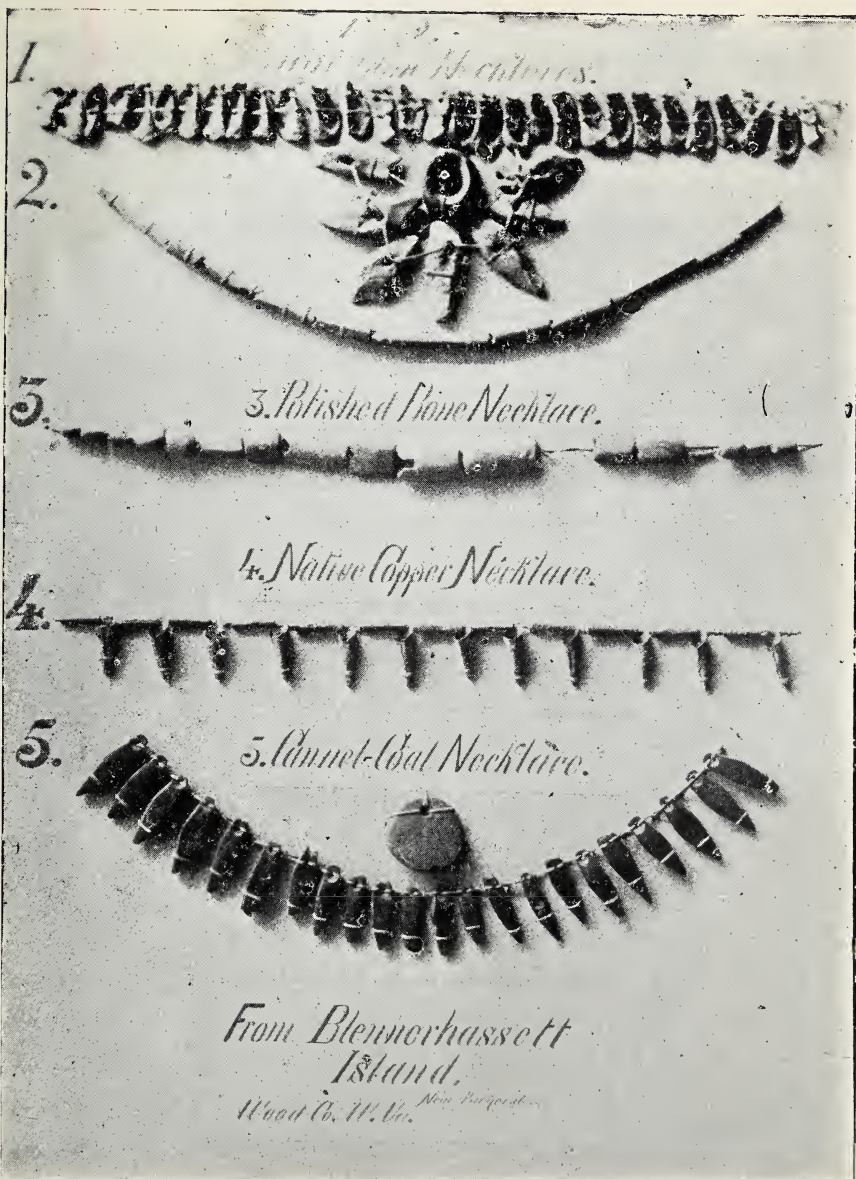
The county court of Wood once authorized its clerk, John Stokely, to erect a dam over the south channel of the Ohio river from the Virginia shore to the island, for the purpose of constructing and running a grist mill, but the enterprise was never carried out. A wing dam, to deepen the channel for steamer navigation, has been constructed there to throw the volume of water pressing on the south shore in the great bend to the north side of the island.

Several of the young men from Belpre, six or more, returned in the spring from the Mississippi territory. Two others, Charles and John Dana, remained, and settling near Walnut Hills, purchased land and cultivated cotton.

Burr, soon after his recognizance, in January, 1807, requested John Dana, with twenty others, to take him in a skiff to a point twenty miles above Bayou Pierre, and land him in the night, intending to escape across the country by land. In order to better conceal his identity, before starting he exchanged his broadcloth coat and beaver hat with Dana, for his coarser dress of a boatman, and an old white wool hat.

One of Blennerhassett's attempts in chemistry was to convert beef into adipocere, or waxy fatness, by immersing large pieces of it in the still waters of the beautiful cove between the landing and the sandbar at the head of the island. He fancied it might be used for illuminating, but the cat fish and perch so interfered with his experiments that he never perfected the chemical change.

Charles Fenton Mercer, who was on the island in Nov. 1806, made a full statement, soon after the Richmond trial, giving his opinion of the object of the expedition, in which he clears Blennerhasset of any designs against the peace and quiet of the United States.



**Copper and Bone Neck Decorations.**  
Photo by Korb & Craig, Artists.



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## Mysterious and Mythic.

Whence came, who were, whither departed the mound-builders from the streams and meadows of the Ohio Valley? Whence, when originated the Indian successor? Who was, when born, how appeared Kiashuta, the chief that Washington met on the camp below Belleville? What tribes of the Six Nations or their predecessors, were dwellers, left their foot-prints, or claimed ownership in the island? The arcana of the revolved years, however searched, leaves only voiceless mystery to veil them all.

What was the object and aim of the hero so suddenly wrecked by a destiny as relentless as Nemesis, in seeking the lonely, current-laved isle in the Ohio? Was there between him and the next highest officer of the new Republic of Freedom an unpatriotic scheme and conspiracy, born of ambition and inborn love of royal honors? Or was Jefferson, the great Father upon the distant Potomac, the dupe of his visionary adherents, the slave of his personal and political ambition, the relentless persecutor of his adversaries? If these questions are startling and evoke only the mysterious, what will be said, thought, believed, when it is boldly announced in the History of Mississippi that Harman Blennerhassett, as a christened infant, had no existence, and that the real name of the personage who necessarily fills a chapter in the History of Wood county, a place in the records of the United States' court, and social memories in the heart and brain of our pioneer fathers, was not that accorded to him, but Lewis Carr?

The assertion made in that volume claims to be founded on indisputable evidence in the West Indies, in New Orleans, in Philadelphia, and if true would strip from the character of Blennerhassett and his refined and devoted wife the innocence and attractiveness which the eloquent Wirt, in his defense, so beautifully pictured and attributed to them and their island home. As a historian, the assertion cannot be ignored, but little credence, however, will be given it, either by the writer of this narrative or any reader in the locality in which occurred events real, romantic, historic.

The truth or falsehood of the unsupported assertions cannot change the value or substantiality of events herein depicted, nor will they alter the judgment long since passed upon the case by the peers of that day.

It is remembered and recorded in the official report of the Burr trial that among the witnesses for the prosecution was one Lewis Kerr. It is not revealed whence he came, or whether his occupation was spy, court-hanger, dreamer or fabricator of air-castles. It was an easy fiction for the disappointed friends of Jefferson, the persecutor, years after the acquittal of Burr and the failure to fasten upon him treasonable guilt, to have written an article for the Kentucky Register to further asperse the name of Blennerhassett, by weaving the story mentioned. It may have such basis, only this and nothing more.

In this line of fabrication and conjecture it would also be easy to theorize that the whole conspiracy was one of discontented Spanish origin, conceived in distant Jamaica, to purchase an island on the grand Ohio, and upon it gather and from it debark the military expedition to invade the trans-Mississippi territories of the Castilian queen, and thus undermine the reigning dynasty at Madrid.

This supposition would, perhaps, to many minds, unravel the mystery that thickly envelops the island, its owners a century ago, and the secret purpose of the arch conspirator, in his adroit management of the unfortunate and over-credulous Blennerhassetts.

Or was it an expression retributive, of the disturbed spirits, in the supernal world, who, mound-builders and aborigines, had their deposited bones sepulchred amid shells, pebbles and silicate grains upon the island, at the presence and possession by the Anglo-Saxon, who had encroached upon their ancient domain and heritage, given them and their people by the Sun-god and Manitou in the long gone ages?

---

A history of Mississippi, by Robert Lowery and William H. McCardle, published in Jackson in 1891, boldly declares, from a letter, printed in the Louisville, Ky., Register, in 1840, that the name Blennerhassett was assumed, and that the hero of the isle was in reality Lewis Carr, who lived on the Island of Jamaica, City of Kingston, and assumed the new name on arrival at New Orleans, and after the final trial and humiliation, sought his old and native location, and resumed his place among those who were glad of his sudden restoration.



*From Blennerhassett Island.*



*This clay pipe was presented to this collection by Geo. Palmer Hickey, Huntington, W. Va.*



**Plain and Image Pipes, with Stone Flute.**

Photo by Korb & Craig, Artists.





## Lawyers of Wood County.

In early days education was not possessed by the masses, and the people received their political information and bias from the attorneys who were usually recognized and weighed by their power to persuade court and jury with eloquence. Few were the books to read, and no journals to report daily occurrences and instruct the public. Nearly every one now reads one or more daily newspapers, and all the newest publications in magazine and book, and the masses have been lifted to a higher plane of knowledge. No longer does the bar sway judge and jury by pathos and oratory alone. An entire docket may be disposed of without a single speech of length or eloquence. The law and facts prevail.

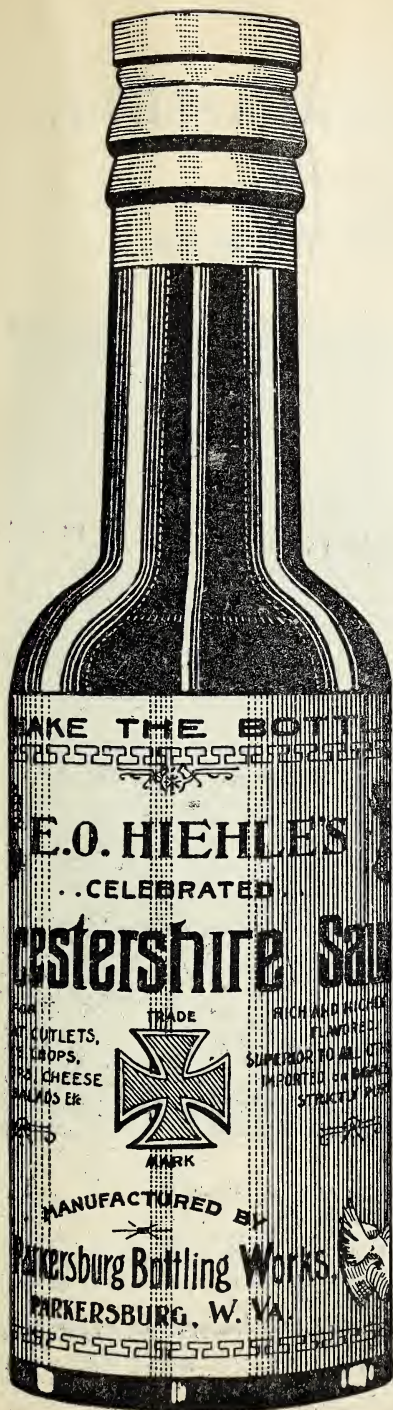
### COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEYS.

At the opening of the County Court of "Gentlemen Justices," an attorney present, Mr. Delacey, was called upon for advice, and thus became the pro-tem or first officer in county formation. The first regular attorney was paid \$45 for his entire year's services.

Natihaniel Davidson	1800 to 1805, March.
Maxwell Armstrong	1805 to 1806.
James G. Laidley	1807 to 1820.
Joseph H. Samuels	1821 to 1826.
John Jay Jackson	1826 to 1852.
James M. Jackson	1856 to 1861, Aug.
M. P. Amiss	1861 to 1864, July.
John A. Hutchinson	1864 to 1869.
Jacob B. Jackson	1871 to 1877.
David H. Leonard	1877 to 1883.
James G. McCluer	1883 to 1886.
R. Heber Smith	1886 to 1889.
Charles T. Caldwell	1889 to 1892.
Walter McDougale	1893 to 1896.
John F. Laird	1897 to 1901.

Among the most prominent legal lights at the bar of Wood county in pioneer times were :

Stephen R. Wilson, admitted 12 Aug., 1799.  
 William Sterret, admitted 14 July, 1800.  
 Isaac Morris, Jr., admitted 11 Aug., 1800.  
 Willys Silliman, admitted 11 Aug., 1800.  
 William Featherington, admitted 1 Feb., 1802.  
 James Wilson, admitted 4 June, 1804.  
 George Dunlevy, admitted 4 June, 1806.  
 William G. Payne, admitted 6 Oct., 1806.  
 Phillip Doddridge, admitted 5 July, 1811.  
 Noah Laidley, admitted ———, 1810.  
 Oliver Phelps, admitted 4 Mar., 1811.  
 Jacob Beeson, admitted 4 Mar., 1811.  
 Lemuel E. Davidson, admitted 4 Mar., 1811.  
 Edwin S. Duncan, admitted 3 June, 1811.  
 Joseph Samuels, admitted 4 Feb., 1811.  
 Jonathan Jackson, admitted 2 Mar., 1812.  
 William Woodbridge, admitted 9 Nov., 1814.  
 Abram Samuels, admitted 2 Jan., 1815.  
 Richard W. Moore, admitted 6 Mar., 1815.  
 Lewis Maxwell, admitted 3 June 1816.  
 William A. Harrison, admitted 5 Oct., 1818.  
 Adolphus Wing, admitted 11 June, 1819.  
 Jefferson Phelps, admitted 23 Sept., 1823.  
 David B. Spencer, admitted 20 Sept., 1822.  
 Edmund J. Lee, Jr., admitted 25 April, 1825.  
 Hugh H. Phelps, admitted 26 Sept., 1825.  
 Joseph Dana, admitted 26 Sept., 1825.  
 Daniel G. Morrill, admitted 14 April, 1827.  
 Mich'l T. Tanner, admitted 14 April, 1827.  
 Geo. W. Summers, admitted — Sept., 1831.  
 Henry J. Fisher, admitted Sept., 1831.  
 John P. Mayberry, admitted Sept., 1831.  
 James M. Stephenson, admitted Sept., 1831.  
 John F. Snodgrass, admitted Sept., 1831.



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D. H. LEONARD,

LAWYER,

314 Julian Street,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

V. B. ARCHER,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office: Juliana Street, above Third,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

Q. D. MERRICK.

LEVIN SMITH.

MERRICK & SMITH,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

304 Julian Street,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

WILLIAM N. MILLER,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Corner Third and Juliana Street,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

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W. W. JACKSON,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

324 Juliana Street,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

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J. G. M'CLUER,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Corner Juliana and Fourth Streets,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

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GEO. LOOMIS.

JAS. A. WATSON.

LOOMIS & WATSON,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

318½ Juliana Street,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

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W. W. VAN WINKLE.

B. M. AMBLER.

VAN WINKLE & AMBLER,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW.

306 Juliana Stre

Parkersburg, W. Va.

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D. C. CASTO

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

Cor. Third and Court Square,

Parkersburg, W. Va.

PROMINENT LAWYERS, 1899.—CONTINUED.

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J. W. VANDERVORT,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Cor. Third and Juliana Streets, Parkersburg, W. Va.

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JAMES S. WADE,

COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW,

240½ Court Square, Parkersburg, W. Va.

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PIGGOTT & PIGGOTT,

LAWYERS.

208½ Third Street, Parkersburg, W. Va.

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HARRY D. PERKINS,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

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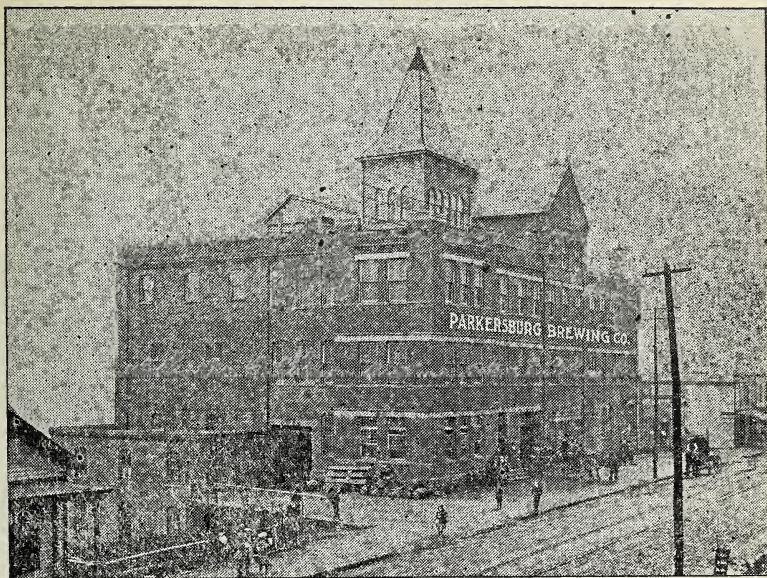
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